THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

REGISTERED No. 44.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

VOLUME XXVI. NUMBER 37.

CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1879.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL.....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER.

WE CULL for the edification of the reader the following flowers of rhetoric from the *Pioneer's* article on the debate in Parliament on the Vote of Thanks to the Indian Army for the successful termination of the Affghan War:

The collective wisdom of the State did not shine brightly in the Afghan debate. Ministers seem to have viewed the whole "through the looking glass, Every notion expressed is upside down or the wrong way about. No mark aimed at is neatly hit, and the praise bestowed is poured out in a wishy-washy flood, apparently designed to give every one a share of the wetting rather than to irrigate the public service in a judicious way. The whole process suggests the idea of flushing a drain. The Government orators cannot see in the dark. And do not know exactly where to direct the stream of their eloquence, but they send on a good rush of water and trust that it may clean out all the crannies. Nothing could well be more perverse than his remarks about Sir Richard Temple. One might think that the Kandahar Force had been saved alive by the supplies from Bombay instead of that whole business being, as it was, one of the big blunders of the war. As events turned out his preparations need never have been made, and the supplies he collected were for the most part left untouched. So when Lord Cranbrook says that his exertions "assisted materially in the removal of those obstacles which threatened to impede the march of the columns," he is talking flatulent nonsense, unworthy of a speaker having access to authentic papers.

This is the way the semi-Government organ speaks of Ministers and Members of Parliament. And yet he roundly accused Mr. George Yule of "bad language" when the latter shewed up the financial policy of the Government of India!

OUR ATTENTION has been drawn to the following remarks of Mr. Khetter Mohun Dutt, domiciled in England, which were delivered at a Manchester meeting in April 1878:

The recent fall in the value of silver is not due (as is generally supposed) to the increased production of this metal over that of gold, as the carefully-prepared estimate of Sir Hector Hay showed that the aggregate production of silver throughout the world, from 1852 to 1875, was only £241,890,000 while that of gold was £572,195,000. Neither can the demonetisation of silver in Germany alone account for it. The total value of the silver coins in circulation at the commencement of the coinage reform has been calculated by reliable authorities to be about 45 millions deducting 22½ millions for new coinage this would leave only 23½ millions as surplus stock for sale which would have been soon absorbed but for the simultaneous decreased demand for silver for Norway, Sweden, Holland, and the members of the Latin Union. These causes operating together must have caused this serious fall. The silver currency being the standard in India and the Government being bound by the Act 23 of 1870 to receive silver from and coin for private individuals, any depreciation in the value of that metal must necessarily cause a fall of exchanges on India. It will not however have any permanent effect on Indian trade, as the balance of trade has been always in favour of India. The total export of India (merchandise only) from 1855 to 1875 is about 933 *millions*, and the import (excluding treasure) 545 *millions* leaving a balance of 388 millions. Of this sum India has received 250 millions (gold £87,669,382; silver £162,602672) in treasure. The rest—say about 138 millions—must have been expended in this country and as during this period various large sums have been sent from time to time from this country by railway and other companies (which are included in the said 250 millions) for their expenses in India; I believe the expenditure here must have been considerably more than that sum. Had there not been these heavy home charges, the fall in the value of silver would not have injured much the Indian trade as the increased flow of silver having increased the price of commodities in India would soon have brought about an equilibrium. Now this home charge (nearly 15 millions per annum), causing a loss of about three millions is the most important element in reference to the question of exchange between England and India. Until it is reduced we must not expect to see any rise in the rate of exchange. But this reduction is not a very easy problem. The remedy proposed by Col. Smith viz., a gradual introduction of gold currency is no doubt a good one but its administration will not be found very easy. This ought to have been done before when the rate of exchange was higher. From 1855 to 1875 the Government of India coined silver rupees valued 142 millions whereas gold coined during that period valued only about one million. Now where are we to get the gold from for coinage? To buy it from foreign markets with our depreciated silver money would involve a serious loss. It is very doubtful whether such a large amount of gold as of value 30 or 40 millions would be available in India as stated by the reader of the paper for his purpose as the greater portion of gold in India is now in the form of ornaments and idols. It is however much easier to criticise a plan than to propose a new one. Nevertheless. I shall venture to suggest that concurrent with the remedies proposed by Col. Smith viz., suspending the silver coinage and introducing gold currency, the adoption of the following measures:—1. To reduce the expenditure in this country. 2. To meet the home charges for a limited period—say four years—with money raised here by loans. 3. To apply 15 crores of rupees a year (which now meet the Council drafts in India) towards reducing the debt in India. Borrowing money in England for home charges while it will reduce them by three millions (loss by exchange) per annum would not increase the debt of the Indian Government as the same amount of debt will be reduced in India. Thus there would be a saving of 12 millions in four years. In the meantime 20 millions per year—the balance of trade—will be remitted to India in gold. If three-fourths of this gold be coined into 10-rupee pieces it will give India 60 millions of gold currency. This increased gold currency will not fail to produce a permanent favourable effect on the rate of exchange on India. The next thing is to reduce the Home charges. That is the most important item and most difficult; no doubt the greater portion of them are legitimate expenses in paying interest on money already borrowed. There is a double loss at the present time which economists do not sufficiently take into consideration, because when a country has to remit a certain amount of money annually to another country which should be paid by its exports the value of the exports is depreciated and the loss is doubled.

It will be seen that Mr. Dutt's suggestions are now being acted upon by influential writers and speakers on the Indian Currency Question in England.

IN THE DEBATE in the House of Lords on the abolition of the Indian Museum Lord Northbrook supported the Government and said, he is quite prepared to support them "to any extent,"—even to "having the salaries of the Secretary of State for India and all the officials of the India Office defrayed out of the Imperial funds." This is significant. If the Colonial Office is maintained by the English Exchequer, by parity of reasoning the India Office ought to be similarly charged.

SIR DAVID WEDDERBURN will next session move "that a free and authoritative expression of the wishes and requirements of Indian taxpayers would be of the greatest value to Parliament, as well as to the Government of India, and it is desirable that native representatives from the principal centres of population should be admitted into the Indian Legislative Councils, and should have afforded to them full opportunities for discussing the financial propositions of the Government." This will be an extension of Babu Joykissen Mookerjea's plan of a Consultative Council. We think Sir David Wedderburn's scheme would be practically better if the Government would consent. But will the Government surrender its power.?

THE TIMES OF INDIA'S London correspondent has the following:

Parliamentary circles within the last few days have been made aware of the arrival of Tiva Mana Guru Govud in London bearing a memorial from the Tamil inhabitants of Ceylon to the Secretary for the Colonies on the subject of the representation of their community in the Legislative Council of the Island; and the aid of various members of Parliament has been sought on this subject. The grievance of the Tamils seems to be the decision of the Governor in favour of a certain candidate to succeed the late Sir Coomara Swamy as representative of the Tamil community in the Ceylon Council. The delegate had an interview with Sir Machael Hicks-Beach on Wednesday, and urged thatthe popular candidate, Mr. C. Brito should be substituted for Sir James Longden's selection, Mr. Ramanathan, a nephew of Sir Coomara Swamy, who, it is alleged, has little experience in the public service and is not acceptable to the Tamil speaking Cingalese. The Colonial Secretary has not yet confirmed the appointment of Mr. Ramanathan, but is considering the whole subject.

THE BEER-BREWERS of England seem to be jealous of Indian beer. Mr. Ritchie, who represents a constituency which includes several of the largest brewers and coopers in the world, put this question the other day in Parliament: "Whether it is true that the troops in India are supplied with beer in the proportion of three-fourths Indian and one-fourth English brewed beer: whether English brewers have the opportunity afforded them of competing with Indian brewers in all contracts which are made for the supplies required; and whether the Under-Secretary for India has any objection to lay upon the table of the House the particulars of the contracts entered into both in India and England for the supply of beer for 1878 and 1879, giving the prices and conditions". In reply to this question Mr. Stanhope explained to his future colleague that "all food for the troops in India is obtained locally if possible." Some of the troops are supplied entirely with Indian beer, and Mr. Stanhope is informed that "it is liked." The Government of India "buy a considerable quantity of beer in the Punjab and neighbouring districts for the supply of which Indian brewers alone compete." Lord Cranbrook is ready to make a careful enquiry into the matter, and Mr. Ritchie and his friends are invited to supply any information which they possess. Cannot the beer-brewers of England raise the question of protection? Put a high excise duty upon Indian beer, or remit the duty upon English beer, and the brewers will be satisfied. India has no business to compete with England!

TUESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER.

THE FOLLOWING ceremony was observed in the House of Lords on the prorogation of Parliament:

About two dozen ladies were present on the seats below the second Opposition gangway. The Strangers Gallery was crowded, and among the occupants of the gallery set apart for peeresses and distinguished strangers was the Siamese Ambassador and suite. The first peer in his place was Lord Denman. The Episcopal bench was represented by the Bishop of St. David's. At a few minutes past two o clock the Lord Chancellor entered the House from the bar, preceded by the mace-bearer, and followed by the train-bearer. Earl Cairns wore his full-bottomed wig, and the scarlet robes of a Royal commissioner. Prayers were said by the Bishop of St. David's who, like the Lord Chancellor, knelt at the Woolsack. The benediction having been pronounced by the Bishop, the LordChancellor retired, but immediately returned accompanied by his fellow Lords Commissioners, the Duke of Northumberland, Earl Beauchamp, the Earl of Hardwicke, and Lord Skelmersdale. The Ministers present included Viscount Cranbrook and Marquis of Salisbury. At five minutes past two o'clock Sir Willam Knolly was despatched to summon the Commons. In a few moments, the Speaker and a number of members of the Lower House came to the bar. The Lord Chancellor, rising, said her Majesty, not thinking fit to be present, had caused a Commission to be issued under the Great Seal. This document was read by the Clerk at the table, the Lords Commissioners, all habited in their scarlet robes, sitting meanwhile on the seat between the Woolsack and the Throne which was, as is usual on such occasions, uncovered. When the Commission had been read, the Royal Assent was given to several Bills.

THE MEGASCONE, a sort of magic-lantern on the reflecting principle, was recently an important aid to justice at Philadelphia, where in a will case two signatures were enormously magnified and presented in Court to the Judge and Jury, materially facilitating their labours, and practically completing the case by ocular demonstration of the forgery. By the use of this simple instrument erasures are at once rendered apparent. Every court of justice in every country ought to keep this instrument. Forgers, beware!

ACCORDING to the *Scientific American* crude petroleum is selling for, from 64 cents. to one dollar per barrel of 40 gallons, and the Hydrocarbon gas company have perfected a very simple and cheap invention, whereby the crude oil can be used for the purpose of, generating and maintaining steam in all classes of boilers. It is said to be much cheaper than coal or wood, there is no ash dirt, or smoke: or fear of fire from falling cinders. There are plenty of oil wells in Arracan and Burmah, and we see no reason why a trial should not be made on the Irrawaddy State Railway of the invention.

ACCORDING to a Swiss paper great in statistics the total deposits in all the savings' banks of Europe amount to £282,670,000. England has the most depositors. Austria gives the highest average for each depositor, £42. France the lowest, £10 4s. 2d., while England with £20 12s. 4d. comes between the two. The total number of depositors is put down at 12,552,866, which gives a mean of 54 depositors to every 1,000 inhabitants. Descending from generals to particulars, we find that Bremen has 360 depositors to every 1000 inhabitants; Lubeck, 307; Hamburg, 226; Switzerland, 203; Saxony, 202; Denmark, 173; Holland, 28; Alsace Lorraine, 27; Italy, 25; Belgium, 25; Finland, 10, and Russia 1. 6,470,630 persons are employed in the various German industries, not reckoning railway, telegraph, post, forest, musical, chemical and medical employes. Of these 1,440,542 are concerned with metals, minerals, and hardware. Textile industries employ 926,767; clothing and cleaning (meaning doubtless, tailors and washer-women) 1,053,142; 187,285 are busied in the paper and leather trades; 464,048 are occupied in felling trees, cutting and carting wood, and carving and gilding; 467,309 are engaged in the erection of buildings, 42,507 in heating and lighting the same, and 45,090 in fishing.

IN PARIS, according to an English paper, all kinds of Madras handkerchief-pattern costumes are fashionable; also cotton prints, with chintz and Cashmere shawl designs. The red color is much in vogue; after red, the copper tint called "Chaudron" is the most patronised in this kind of costume.

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA contains a notification, re-constituting the Mysore Judicial system. Besides the Court of Small Causes at Bangalore, there are to be four grades of civil courts—the Moonsiff's court with a jurisdiction up to Rs. 500; the court of the Subordinate Judge with a jurisdiction up to Rs. 5,000; the District Judge's court, for all suits, and the court of the Judicial Commissioner. The control of all courts vests in the Judicial Commissioner, and of subordinate courts in the Judge, who is also vested with appellate powers from those

courts. These new rules are to come into force from the 15th instant.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT are actively moving in their preparations for running a railway 1250 miles in length across Sahara, connecting Algeria and Senegal with Soudan. A commission has been appointed to direct the exploration and determine the direction. The other schemes for opening Central Africa to commerce by flooding the western Sahara also seem to be making progress. The strange depression near the Atlantic, 500 miles long and 120 miles wide, will be easily made into one great lake, and other extensive lakes south of Tunis will be formed by canals from the Mediterranean. Every possible assistance, it is said, is being given to the French explorations there by the Bey of Tunis and the people generally who feel that the opening of a large lake must be for their commercial and social benefit. It is believed that the Atlas mountains north of the desert, 12,000 feet high, will supply a sufficient barrier for the protection of Europe from any excessive humidity, and that the climate of Europe will be even improved while that of Africa will be entirely changed by the abundant rains that will follow the opening of these lakes.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER.

A LONDON bookseller has published in cheap form a pithy little sketch of Lord Beaconsfield. It has a motto from Artemas Ward, who is fast becoming a classic in England. The motto is, "He asked me what was my prinserpuls? 'I haint got enny' said I; 'not a prinserpul. I me in the show Bizniss.'

GEN. GRANT is said to have received at Peking attentions such as had never before been bestowed upon any foreigner before. He was given a grand banquet by the highest native officers and most prominent foreigners, and had two extended conferences with Li Hung Chang-Viceroy of Chihli, the foremost man in the empire.

FREDERIC DOUGLAS is now United States Marshal for the District of Columbia, a post of high honor and influence. He is a full-blooded Negro, and to show the astonishing difference between his position now and that of his early years, we subjoin the following extract from a speech he recently made at the unveiling of his bust in the city of Rochester. His story is a marvellous one, over which we might well linger a few moments for reflection:

"Incidents of this character in my life do much amaze me. It is not, however, the height to which I have risen, but the depth from which I have come, that most amazes me. It seems only a little while ago, when a child, I might have been seen fighting with old 'Nep,' my mother's dog, for a small share of the few crumbs that fell from the kitchen table; when I slept on the hearth, covering my feet from the cold with the warm ashes and my head with a corn bag; only a little while ago dragged to prison to be sold to the highest bidder, exposed for sale like a beast of burden; later on put out to live with Convey, the negro breaker; beaten and almost broken in spirit, having little hope either for myself or my race; yet here I am, alive and active, and with my race enjoying citizenship in the freest and prospectively the most powerful nation on the globe."

When will the Indian subjects of the Queen-Empress of England be able to return an Indian Marshal to the Indian army?

IT IS SAID THAT Mr. Robert Knight, now in England, will, at the next general election, contest for Kilmarnock. We wish him every success.

PAPERS relating to the collections, &c., of the Road Cess and Public Works Cess in Bengal for the year ending September 1878, have recently been submitted to the Secretary of State, and show that, during the year, the collections fell short by Rs. 10,41,491 of the total demand of Rs. 72,61,093 on account of the two cesses including arrears, and by Rs. 3,42,939 of the current demand for the year. In these figures, however, there appears to be included the sum of Rs. 2,08,514, the amount of House Cess demand for the second half of the year, which was suspended by order of the Local Government. The employment of one agency for the collection of the two cesses is reported to have led, as was expected, to a great saving of time and economy of establishment, and has worked, on the whole, very smoothly. In connection with the operation of the Road Cess Act, it appears that some points require to be more clearly defined, and that further powers are required in order to bring rent-free holdings under assessment, and to meet the case of an estate being partitioned, or separate accounts being opened during the currency of a valuation.—*Press Commissioner.*

IN A LETTER addressed to the Secretary of State for India, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach expresses a wish for the adoption of a suggestion, made by the Government of India, that an officer acquainted with the business of emigration should be periodically deputed from India to visit and report upon the state of the coolies in the several Colonies. In the case of the West India Colonies, the Secretary of State suggests, as a less expensive arrangement, the employment of pensioned Indian Officers in England, who should be recommended by the Indian Government as qualified for the work.—*Ditto.*

THE SECRETARY OF STATE has sanctioned the creation of a full Professorship of Physiology at the Calcutta Medical College, with a salary of Rs. 850 a month.—*Ditto.*

WE ARE GLAD to observe that at a meeting in support of Dr. Monier Williams' Indian Institute at Oxford Maharaja Narendrakrishna made a manful stand against the compulsory expatriation to England of Indian candidates for appointment to the Covenanted Civil Service in the following terms:

"Maharajah Narendra Krishna did not understand that the new rules in any way required that youths admitted to the Civil Service by nomination should be required to spend the period of their probation in England. The respectable and orthodox Hindus were strongly opposed to their sons going to England. They considered it involved a loss of caste and a public renunciation of their religion."

Mr. Bell explained that it would be optional with the Indian candidates to go to England or not. Mr. Manomohun Ghose said that "he did not understand that Mr. Bell advocated that all selected candidates should be sent to England, but that if any of them wish to spend their period of probation in England, that the Oxford Institute might, in that case, be of material advantage to them." If the matter is left optional, there can be no reasonable objection to it.

THURSDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER.

AN ENGLISH JOURNAL frankly gives credit to the American nation for at least fifteen inventions and discoveries which, it says, have been adopted all over the world. These triumphs of American genius are thus enumerated: First, the cotton gin; second, the planing machine; third, the grass-mower and grain-reaper; fourth, the rotary printing press; fifth, navigation by steam; sixth, the hot air or caloric engine; seventh, the sewing machine; eighth, the India rubber industry; ninth, the machine manufacture of horse shoes; tenth, the sand blast for carving; eleventh, the gauge lathe; twelfth, the grain elevator; thirteenth, artificial ice manufacture on a large scale; fourteenth, the electro-magnet and its practical application; fifteenth, the composing machine for printers.

THE BANNER OF LIGHT, Boston, has the following notice of Rama Bai:

Rama Bai, whose beauty equals her wisdom, has just paid a visit to Mr. Tawney, of the Senate. Professor Gough and the Pundit, M. C. Nyazaratna, of the University of Calcutta, were present at the marvelous exhibitions of this young girl." Questions were asked, as it were, of some learned spirit, of the veritable goddess of science, Saraswati, and "Rama Bai replied in *sloka* composition *extempore*," with remarkable aptness—a translation being given. "The Pundit then proposed a thesis on the University, and Mr. T. on the Empress and in a few moments she composed two extraordinary poems, which Sanskrit scholars admired for their profundity and brilliancy. Last Monday Rama Bai paid a visit to the honourable Maharaja, J. Mohun Tagore, and sustained there, again in the midst of the select audience, by the incomparable facility with which she responded to subjects suggested her reputation as an inspired poetess.

The reader will doubtless recognize in the "Nyazaratna" the well known Nayaratna, Principal, Sanskrit College.

THE KANSAS PIONEER, Kansas City, reports the following case:

A Man Fined for Practising Surgery and Medicine Without Using Either instruments or Medicine.

Mr. VanHorn, a well-known citizen of Kansas City, was arrested and taken before the criminal court, tried, found guilty, and fined $250 for practicing medicine without license. It was proven in court that he washed his hands in cold water, and then proceeded to rub the pain out of a young lady's limb, who had applied for magnetic treatment, and after doing so he charged her a dollar. Now let Christ come back and undertake to cure the lame by the laying on of hands, and our criminal court will take him in and fine him at once.

The fine was subsequently remitted, and Mr. Van Horn was committed to the county jail for fifteen days. What is this but persecution? So Much for the liberality of the age in which we live! Nevertheless the number of magnetic healers is increasing in America.

THE CANDAHAR Correspondent of the *Pioneer* says that "the one redeeming feature of the place has been its fruit: this we have had in abundance for the last three months—apricots, peaches, melons, figs, pears, and grapes are brought in from the country every day. There are no less than 30 varieties of the latter, many of them rivalling hot-house ones."

A DISTINGUISHED Indian civilian has just passed away in the person of Mr. F. M. Lind, who died at Norwood, London, on the 13th ultimo. At the time of the outbreak of the Mutiny in 1857 he was Magistrate and Collector of Benares, and took a prominent part in keeping that town and district quiet. Mr. Lind's name will be inseparably connected with those who did this country no ordinary service during the troublous period of 1857-58.

WE ARE sorry to learn the death of Mr. Trotman of Messrs. Watkins Trotman & Co. He was an excellent lawyer and a thoroughly honest man.

SIMLA is about to have a Town Hall of its own. The necessary sanction has been accorded by the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, and designs of a building are being prepared. There will be a central hall for meetings and durbars, and for occasional use as a theatre and ball-room. Attached to the hall, will be retiring and supper-rooms, and on either side of the central building are to be wings in which the United Service Institution and the Station Library are to be housed.

FRIDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER.

THE INDU-PRAKASH supports Babu Joykissen Mookerjea's scheme of a Consultative Council. After comparing the advantages of representation of India in Parliament and of the proposed Consultative Council our contemporary says:

"Supposing India were given the concession of Parliamentary representation to-day, it is open to question whether under our present social condition, our best men would come forward to represent the country in the Parliament. Such a scheme therefore is desireable as would free us from the evils of external interference or influence especially as regards our finances and at the same time enable the ablest of our public men to have a voice in the administration without necessitating any sacrifices on their part. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the British Indian Association will right earnestly agitate the question of Consultative Councils and bring the subject before Parliament.

THE SAME PAPER asserts that its information about the reduction of the troops of Baroda proposed by the Government of India is correct. Our contemporary says: "We are informed that we have not altogether been misled, and that there is some apprehension as to the correctness of our report. It would therefore be better if this apprehension were cleared away on proper official authority from Baroda."

THE ABOVE JOURNAL gives an account of a lecture on "Bengal as it is" by Pundit Shivanath Sastri M. A. at Bombay. We give the following extract from it:

"The Political era of Bengal commenced with the establishment of the British Indian Association and of the two well-known journals—the *Hindoo Patriot* and the *Some Prakash* both of which by their powerful writings have contributed to educate the Public of Bengal in the Politics of the Country. The social and religious era began with the widow marriage movement set up by Pundit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and the institution of the Brahmo Somaj of India by Babu Keshub Chundra Sen. The literary era commenced when Mr. Michael Mudusudan Dutt who produced for the first time original works in Bengali."

The audience, we are told, were delighted with the lecture.

THE CABUL DISASTER has we are grieved to see, taken away the sense of some Englishmen. The *Indian Charivari* exhorts the British soldier to forget his Christianity for the moment and to hound on the Affghans indiscriminately like ancient Britons, when they were no better than beasts of the forest. The writer is in serious earnest as will be seen from the following lines:

Soldiers, yours the work of vengeance,
Slow to spare and swift to slay
Be your arms when next the Afghan
Shall confront you in the fray.
Let your father Viking's fierceness
Quell all thoughts of mercy, say
To the dotards who would stop ye,
We are Odin's men to-lay.
Thor and Odin 'gainst Mahomet
Till the accursed walls are flat;
Till our comrades' bones are rescued—
We 'll be Christian after that.

Yes, drop Christianity and play the devil incarnate!

THE BOMBAY REVIEW has the following:

Lord Napier's speech in the House of Lords on the vote of thanks to the Army on the conclusion of the Afghan Campaign was notable for the praise accorded by the veteran Commander to the Commissioned Native Officers. He maintained that their capability of taking the place of European subalterns was fully proved by their recent gallant bearing. The critics of the new organisation have not given due weight to the efficiency of these native officers, Jemadars and Subadars, "levelled up;" and if the system is to have a fair chance, the conviction expressed by so high an authority as Lord Napier must be acted on by Commanding Officers and Brigadiers.

We say *ditto*.

WE CONGRATULATE Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Bart., on his appointment to the Bombay Legislative Council. The young Baronet is intelligent and amiable. We hope he will walk in the footsteps of his illustrious grandfather.

SATURDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER.

THE PIONEER hears a rumour from Simla that the Government of India has at last given its decision in the Hur Sahai case. Hur Sahai, it is said will be allowed to retire honourably on a pension, the finding of the Commission being upheld. We hope Sir George Couper will now draw in his horns. When will the Resolution of the Government be published?

THE CEYLON OBSERVER pays the following tribute to Sir John Phear, the retired Chief Justice of Ceylon:

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"In point of ability as an English equity, lawyer and as a methodical reasoner, Sir John Phear may be said to have had no equal among his more recent predecessors, whilst for downright hard work, there is not a single official in the island who excelled him."

But, the writer says, Sir John Phear did not quite understand the Roman-Dutch law, which prevails in Ceylon.

THE ALLAHABAD JOURNAL says that the fate of Cooper's Hill College is trembling in the balance. The Government of India, it says, "is disinclined to maintain its existence, and a current of public opinion at home is opposed to it, on the theory that it militates against the employment of native talent in the engineering department out here." The only argument which it can bring forward in support of the College is that it is "a beautifully organized institution!"

WE HAVE received the following account of the Lieutenant Governor's visit to Sylhet:

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Chief Commissioner of Assam arrived at Sylhet just at day-break of the 5th September 1879 and held a levee of European and Native officials after breakfast. At that time of the following day there was a reception of a few Zemindars and one or two Government servants overlooked the previous day. Mr. H. Luttman Johnson, Deputy Commissioner of the District, made all the necessary arrangements. There was careful inspection of the public offices and the institutions at the Station and the Chief Commissioner with suite left for Cachar, before day-break of the 8th idem. One thing that struck me was the absence of all public demonstration for the reception of His Honor at Sylhet, which is much to be regretted for the sake of the people of the District.

The local paper, *Srihatta Prokas*—has temporarily changed hands and I am constrained to say for the worse. I hope my object will not be misunderstood from this remark. None will be more happy than I am to see the *Srihatta Prokas* alter its tone and policy to make it a true representative of the people at large, instead of *creating divisions among them*. It is simply ridiculous to see a man of Barisaul characterised as an usurper and the Deputy Commissioner blamed for doing things for which every sensible man accords him the highest praise.

ACCORDING to the *Times of India's* London correspondent Lord Lytton's earldom and his resignation have at his own request been postponed till the next year. Not wisely done.

IN COMMENTING on the refusal of the Government of India to allow independent Press Correspondents to proceed to Kabul, the *Bombay Gazette* remarks:

"The Indian Government may take upon itself to thus control the press, and so to suppress whatever information it may not suit them to get abroad; but we suspect that in attempting to do so, Lord Lytton, even as the Viceroy of India, is exceeding his powers. If this decision on the part of an administration—whose rule will mark one of the darkest pages of Indian History, and which in twelve months has perpetrated more blunders than can be laid to the score of twenty years—was arrived at in the interest of the country and of the public, we would be bound to acquiesce. But the decision to suppress all independent correspondents from the armies in the field has simply been come to in the interest of Lord Lytton himself, and the one or two men who, like him, are really responsible for the murder of the men who have just died at Cabul. For the fact is the present Government of India dare not face the light of an independent Press correspondence. The authorities in England placed no obstacle the other day in the way of a representative of the Press accompanying the army invading Zululand.

Why should India be treated exceptionally?

THE FOLLOWING is from a Santipore correspondent:

The flood of this year does by no means fall short of the inundation of September of the year, 1871, whereby forty five villages of this District are completely under water. There is one vast sheet of water from Bagoolah to Hauskhali. The villagers have sought refuge in the Sudder Station of Krishnaghar with their cattle. The European residents of Krishnaghar have kindly allowed the distressed villagers to graze their cattle on the grassy compounds of their respective houses. It is reported, that most of the villages have been inundated through the folly of certain overzealous police officers, who thought it prudent to cut off the embankments of Chappra, Kooli-Baud and Sarswatti. Our energetic District Magistrate Mr. Taylor is busy in taking necessary steps to improve the condition of the inundated villages now under water and he will probably convene a public meeting of the Zemindars for devising measures for the relief of distressed ryots.

We hope an enquiry will be made into the truth of the statement that the Police had cut the bunds.

GENUINE SUTTEISM. A young man belonging to a respectable Kyastha family of Barahanagore was drowned in the river last Monday; the sad news reached home, and his wife, who was exceedingly attached to him, was determined to follow her lord in the other world. She jumped into a tank in her house and thus put an end to her life. This was an act of genuine Sutteism.

WE HAD the pleasure of visiting the "Crystal Palace" of Messrs. Osler & Co. this week, and had a look at the new Durbar Chair, manufactured at the English factory of the firm and exhibited at the Paris exhibition. The chair is made of crystal glass, exceedingly beautiful, and very pleasing to the eye; the mouldings are particularly striking.

THERE WERE 197 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 6th September, of which 82 were from fever, 19 from bowel complaints, 3 from cholera, 1 from small-pox, 22 from tetanus, 12 from convulsions and the rest from other causes. Seven children were still-born and one person died from old age. The mortality among non-Asiatics and mixed races was 10. The week under report was comparatively a healthy one in Calcutta.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications: 1. Selections from the Records of the Government of India, Home Department. (Vagrant Bands of Foreigners.) 2. Report on the Criminal Justice of British Burmah for 1878. 3. Report on the Police administration of Bengal for 1878-79. 4. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal No. VII, July, 1879. 5. A few observations on the Teeth and the practice of painless dentistry, by W. Eskell. 6. The Thirteenth Report of the proceedings of the Calcutta School Book Society with an appendix for 1876-77. 7. Catalogue of English Books and of Vernacular Languages on sale at the Calcutta School Book and Vernacular Literature Society's Depository for 1879. 8. Life of Ranee Rashmoney of Jaunbazar, Calcutta, by Hem Chunder Banerjea. 9. Mahabharut in Bengali prose, Karna Parba, published and distributed *gratis* by Protab Chunder Roy. 10. On the advantages of debating societies, by the Revd. W. Miller M.A. Madras. 11. Saddarsana Chintanika or studies in Indian Philosophy, vol. 3, No. 6, June, 1879. 12. Prolap, a poem in Bengali, published by Behary Lal Gangooly. 13. Bhagvatta Tutwa Koumudi translated in Bengali from the original Sanskrit and published by Essan Chunder Bose. 14. A free translation of the Patwardhani Almanack from Sanskrit and Marhathi into English by Mr. Bulwantrao Venayak Shastri, Bombay.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, September 8th.—Lord Cranbrook on receipt of the news of the Kabul disaster, immediately returned to London. The London Press, discussing the news call for severe punishment of the outrage and agree in the necessity of a march to Kabul. The *Times* urges that the outrage creates no new situation and is no argument in favour of Afghan annexation. The *Standard* suspects Russian instigation.

9th.—The Queen has telegraphed a message of condolence to Lady Cavagnari. Austrian troops have entered Novi-bazar without opposition.

10th.—Lord Cranbrook presided at a meeting of the Indian Council yesterday and afterwards proceeded to Hughenden to consult with Lord Beaconsfield. He will return to London to-morrow. The St. Petersburg Gazette urges the partition of Afghanistan between England and Russia.

11th—Government has placed the regiments at the Cape, which have been ordered home, at the disposal of the Viceroy of India, should he deem their service necessary. The Commander of the Turkish forces at Plevlje states that the inhabitants of Novibazar have protested against the occupation of that town by the Austrian troops though they have not shown open opposition. Lord Cranbrooke has published telegrams which were sent to the Viceroy by the late Sir Louis Cavagnari since his arrival at Kabul, and which disproves statements made in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, that the Amir had shown coolness to Sir Louis, and had given him warning of approaching danger.

12th.—A speech has been delivered by Grant Duff at Elgin. He strongly censured the Afghan policy of the Government, and held that Lord Salisbury was chiefly responsible for what had occurred.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, on Thursday, the 18th Sept. at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Ruhmkorff's Coil and Geissler's Tubes.

PRACTICAL Class in Chemistry under Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, on Friday, the 19th Inst. at 5 P. M.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, on Saturday the 20th Inst. next, at 4 P. M.

Subject: Flame.

The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1879.

REFORM AND RETRENCHMENT.

XV.

MILITARY EXPENDITURE—PRESIDENCY COMMANDS.

WITH another Affghan war in hand, and with the prospect of military occupation of Affghansthan it may perhaps be futile to discuss the question of army retrenchment. It is impossible to say what number of men will be required for this purpose. Nevertheless there are certain items of military expenditure, which are quite unaffected by the issues of the Affghan imbroglio. Although four members of the Army Commission, Generals Roberts and Macpherson and Colonels MacGregor and Baker have proceeded to Affghansthan, it is believed that their opinions on all important points are known, and that the representatives of the other Presidencies still remain at Simla. The work of the Commission will thus go on, and any suggestions about military retrenchment will not therefore be thrown away.

The first question, which we wish to urge for the consideration of the Commission, is the minor Presidency Commands. Is there any necessity for maintaining those Commands? The circumstances under which they were constituted have passed away. The territorial division of British India into Presidencies was not a geographical distribution with special reference to area and population, but the result of the commercial and military progress of the East India Company. The first possession of the English in India was the island of Bombay, which was ceded to Charles the Second as part of the marriage dowry of the Infanta of Portugal and made an appanage to the British Crown, and which was presented by His Majesty to the East India Company. The Company established factories in Bombay, Madras and Bengal, which afterwards became centres of conquest. The affairs of the East India Company at the three settlements and depots subordinate to them, as Colonel Chesney remarks, were administered, at this time, in each case by a President and Council, consisting of the senior agents (or, as they were called, merchants) of the Company, who received their instructions from the Court of Directers established in London. From this form of administration was derived the name of Presidency, applied to the territories of which the President and Council, in course of time, obtained the government. Gradually, as the student of Indian history is well aware, the East India Company under a singularly fortunate combination of events, exchanged the counter for the royal sceptre. The Parliamentary Act of 1773 vested the Company with sovereign powers. Under that Act a Governor General of Bengal was appointed with a Council of four members. The Presidency of Bengal was defined in the Act, "to be all the territorial acquisitions and Revenues (of the Company) in the kingdoms of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, and the powers of Government in these were vested in the Governor General in Council of the said Presidency, in like manner as the same now are, or at any time heretofore might have been, exercised by the President and Council or Select Committee in the said kingdoms." The Act of 1773 referred to the two other Presidencies in an indirect manner. It provided that "the Governor General and Council of Bengal or the major part of them, should have the power of superintending and controlling the management and Government of the Presidencies of Madras, Bombay and Bencoolen, so far that the President and Council of those Presidencies were not to make war or negotiate treaties 'without consent and approbation of the said Governor General and Council first had and obtained,' except in case of eminent necessity, or of their having received special orders from the Court of Directors. They are also required 'constantly and diligently to transmit advice and intelligence, to the Governor General and Council of Bengal,' of 'all transactions and matters whatever relating to the Government, Revenues or interest of the said United Company.' In other respects the administration of the two (now) minor Presidencies was not interfered with. They continued to be governed by a President and Council, usually composed of the senior Civil Servants, but the practice arose about this time for the Court to nominate and send the President out from England." Then came the Act of 1784, which gave the Governor General of Fort William power "to control and direct the several Presidencies now or hereafter to be established in the East Indies in all such points as relate to any transactions with the country powers or to war or peace, or to the application of the revenues or forces of such Presidencies in time of war, or any such other points as shall from time to time, be especially referred by the Court of Directors of the said Company to their superintendence and control." Further they were vested with power

to suspend presidents and councillors of the other Presidencies disobeying them, and the Governments of the latter were required to send them all needful information on matters of importance; and were prohibited from making war or treaties independently." When the Charter Act of 1793 was passed the style of Governor General *and* Council was changed into Governor General *in* Council, and the Governors of the two Presidencies were vested with the powers of legislation. We need not touch upon the changes introduced by the Charter Acts of 1813, 1833, and 1853. By every successive Act the powers of the Governor General in Council were increased. Thus under the Act of 1833 the control of the central government was asserted much more distinctly than in previous Acts. No Governor was to have power to create offices, or grant money without the previous sanction of the Governor General of India in Council, who was invested 'with full power and authority to superintend and control the Governors and Governors in Council of Fort William in Bengal, Fort St. George, Bombay, and Agra, in all points relating to the civil and military administration of the said Presidencies respectively.' The British territories in the continent of India are now divided into ten provinces or local Governments, viz., I Madras, II Bombay, III Bengal, IV North Western Provinces, V Punjab, VI Oudh, VII Central Provinces, VIII. British Burma, IX. Assam, X. Berar. The Bengal Presidency comprises Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, North Western Provinces and Oudh, Punjab, Central Provinces, and Assam; the Bombay Presidency Bombay, Sind, and Berar, the Madras Presidency Madras and Mysore. The name Presidency has now become a misnomer, inasmuch as the President in Council is no longer in existence. But in a military sense the Presidencies exist. The Bengal Army garrisons the Bengal Presidency, the Bombay Army the Bombay Presidency, and the Madras Army Madras Mysore, and British Burma. But it has been justly remarked that "Her Majesty's troops serving in India belong to one and the same army, subject to the same Articles of War and Regulations, and being in all respects under precisely similar conditions. Nevertheless, they have always been, and are still, deemed to belong to the Bengal, Bombay, or Madras 'Establishment,' according as they were serving at stations occupied by the native armies of one or other of those presidencies respectively. The only bond of connection lies in the general control exercised over all British troops in India by the Commander-in-Chief, who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Bengal native army, but has no authority over those of Madras and Bombay. This general control has reference, principally, to courts-martial and leave of absence." The circumstances which caused the distribution of the Indian forces into three Presidential divisions no longer exist. Then they were controlled by independent or quasi-independent authorities, then they had different bases of action, then they had three separate points for supplies and internal improvement. But the European troops in India have now been absorbed into the British army, and by a net work of railways all local distinctions have been practically abolished, while one code of rules and regulations governs the whole British army in India. Why should then the old distinction in Presidency Commands be maintained, which does not contribute to efficiency, but on the contrary entails much useless expenditure? On this subject Colonel Chesney in his *Indian Polity* makes some pertinent observations, which we transcribe below:

It may be well to explain here in what this presidential system consists, as applied to the British troops in India. In all other colonies as is well known the action of the Colonial Government is confined to recommendations for the distribution and, if need be, the employment of the troops, which in all other respects continue to be as completely under the control of the English War Office as if they were still in England. But the whole expense of the British troops stationed in India is borne by the Indian Exchequer; and consequently except as regards discipline and the operations of the Articles of War the whole administration of the army is conducted by the Indian Government which determines the distribution and movement of the troops makes all provision for barracks and hospitals and supplies all the establishments and camp-followers required to supplement the combatant forces. Thus a regiment on arriving in India comes under the supervision of a second War Department and the inconsistency and anomaly of the existing practice consists in the maintenance of three War Departments instead of one. Besides the Military Department as it is termed, of the Supreme Government, the Madras and Bombay Governments have each a smaller bureau of the same kind. Now if those Governments were financially responsible for their military administration, there might be some shew of use for these offices; but since the whole military expenditure and administration throughout the country are in reality regulated entirely by the Supreme Government (to which all business has finally to be referred), these local Military Departments are, so far as the British troops are concerned a mere interpolation of needless additional machinery.

The inconvenience, to use the mildest term, of the present division of authority, may be best exemplified by one or two illustrations:—

The city of Nagpoor the capital of the Central Provinces is garrisoned by a line regiment from the Madras 'Establishment.' But Nagpoor can only be approached, from the south, by passing through an uninhabited malarious jungle, so the reliefs are usually shipped from the Madras coast to Bombay, whence a railway conveys them to Nagpoor. But as this regiment belongs to the Madras Establishment, no official cognisance of its movement would be taken by the Bombay Government, until it was requested to provide for its transport by the Madras Government. In fact the regiment while passing through the Bombay Presidency would be practically as much in a foreign country as are the British troops when passing through Egypt on their way to India.

Again if the head of the administration of Burmah wants to alter the distribution of his garrison he must apply to his superior authority the Goverament of India who state their wishes to the Government of Madras who instruct their Commander-in-Chief to make the needful change. Or conversely, if the general commanding the troops at Rangoon wants some improvement carried out in the barracks there, he applies to his Commander-in-Chief, who applies to the Government of India, who finally instructs the Chief Commissioner accordingly. All this circumlocution is necessary, because the battalions in Burmah are held to belong to the Madras Establishment.

It need hardly be said that the complexity of the army finance and accounts must, necessarily, be greatly enhanced by the maintenance of the three armies. So long as the three armies are kept separate and provided for by separate grants furnished by the Supreme Government the accounts which follow the course of the annual grants must necessarily be kept in the same way. Thus the army accounts from Rangoon, instead of going in direct course of post of Calcutta are sent to the Audit Office of the Madras Government at Madras. If the matter ended there the arrangement would not be particularly objectionable: but the final office of army account is necessarily with the War Department at calcutta which supplies the money. The Madras office is merely a receiving-house where the accounts are condenced before being sent on to the final place of disposal.

The inconvenience of the system during peace-time is however but trifling compared with what occurs in time of war. The danger and difficulty which attend all military enterprises undertaken by combined forces of allies; the importance of concentrating military authority in one head the necessity for a centralised administration of military affairs—these are things universally admitted; and to work out the last condition successfully is the problem which every nation in Europe is eagerly employed in. Yet the object deliberately contemplated by the Indian system is artificially to create three armies out of one. A most egregious example has been afforded by the force employed on the Abyssinian expedition. This has been mainly composed of troops from Bombay. To say nothing about the jealousy alleged to have been felt by the armies of the other two Presidencies because there is no evidence to show that any such feeling has really been manifested it was clearly the natural arrangement that the army stationed close to the port of embarkation should have been selected on this occasion; but it is important to observe that even if this had not been in other respects the most convenient plan it would nevertheless have been carried out, simply because to have employed a mixed force in anything like equal parts would magnify to an intolerable degree the difficulty of the undertaking. As it is a small contingent has been supplied from Bengal consisting of one regiment of infantry and two of cavalry. It might have been supposed that these would naturally have been brigaded with Bombay troops of the same arms respectively, but this would be opposed to prescriptive right and custom. So the Bengal brigade—one-third infantry two-thirds cavalry—embarks with its own general and staff just as much a foreign contingent to the rest of the expeditionary force as were the Sardinians to the British Army in the Crimea. These troops it should be mentioned were natives, but had they been Europeans the result would probably have been just the same.

The Governor General in Council is practically the disposer of the military forces. As Colonel Chesney says, the total strength of the British forces in India, and their distribution throughout the different provinces, are determined by the Supreme Government. The Governments of Madras and Bombay certainly have a potential voice in the distribution of the different garrisons, situated in their own territories; but their aggregate amount, as well as the garrisons of Madras and Bombay troops serving in other provinces, are determined solely by the Government of India, in communication, as regards the latter, with the local authorities concerned. As regards expenditure and arrangements for permanent objects—barracks, hospitals, and so forth—all the governments and administrations in India are precisely on the same footing, so that the Madras Government has to do in this respect with less than half of its nominal establishment. The special functions of the Bombay and Madras Governments, in regard to the British troops, may therefore really be reduced to this, that the selection of particular regiments for particular stations is nominally determined by them; in reality, the matter will usually be settled by the local Commander-in-Chief. It will hardly be contended that the presidential system, with all the expense and trouble it causes, ought to be maintained any longer, simply for sustaining these trifling distinctions. The province which has the largest military garrison in India is the Punjab, the lieutenant-governor of which has of course an important share in determining its strength and distribution. Yet it would never be alleged that his dignity and just influence were lessened, because it is not left to him to determine which particular battalions and batteries shall occupy particular stations, or because his opinion is not taken as to the number of litters required for a regimental hospital.

But more than that. While the Punjab is the largest military garrison in India, has it a distinct Commander-in-Chief? Why should then Madras and Bombay have separate Commanders-in-Chief? If one Finance Minister can direct the financial administration of all India, surely one Commander-in-Chief can similarly conduct the military administration of all India. As for variety in the composition of the Indian forces there is no greater variety in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies than there is in the Bengal Presidency. The Railway has however levelled down all geographical distinctions, and if the Commander-in-Chief from Fort William is competent to regulate the movements of troops on the borders of Peshawar, why can he not with equal efficiency do the same with the troops in the Deccan or the Coromandel Coast? In the present epoch the minor Presidency Commands are an anomaly, a mistake, and ought to be done away with altogether.

THE KABUL DISASTER.

IN the treacherous waters of Affghan politics the bark of British policy has again sunk. The tragedy of 1841 has been repeated. In the same quadrangle of horrors, within which Macnaughten and his suite were hacked into pieces, Sir Louis Cavagnari and his brave band have been shot, slain or burnt to death. The news has filled the whole civilized world with grief. Upon the English nation it has fallen like a thunder-bolt. The Votes of Thanks of Parliament to the Indian Army had scarcely reached their destination, the Honors conferred by Her Majesty had scarcely appeared in the *Gazette*, when the melancholy intelligence of the terrible disaster at Kabul was flashed forth to the whole world. It was only yesterday thePremier boasted at Lord Mayo's Dinner that the object of the scientific frontier in Affghansthan had been "accomplished and achieved with a precision of plan and a rapidity of execution not easily aqualled in the annals of statesmanship and war." Sir Henry Rawlinson, the chief counsellor of Lord Salisbury, the real author of the Affghan War, in a paper on "the results of the Affghan war" in the last number of the *Nineteenth Century*, gloats over the fact that the war had proved "so small and ephemeral a matter." The late Lord Sandhurst, he says, affirmed a few years back that it would not be safe to advance on Candahar with a less force than 30,000 men, and the expense of such an enterprise was popularly estimated at twenty millions of money. He adds, "I certainly never gave any countenance, on the one hand, to the supposed military difficulties of invading Afghanistan: on the contrary, I always anticipated that at Candahar we should be received as liberators by the great majority of the population, and I further stated my conviction that the Afghans were but feeble enemies in the field, so feeble, indeed, that a small well-appointed British force might march triumphantly from one end of the country to the other." And yet within a few days of this self-satisfied acquiescence the whole condition is changed. The curtain, which had fallen upon the second Afghan War, is again uplifted, and another terrible scene of bloodshed and horrors is opened to view. The victor is vanquished, not in fair fight, not in open battle, but in a brutal assault, in a mob outrage, in a sudden attack at tremendous odds, in a defile of dark treachery and diabolical design. True, the disaster, which has thus fallen upon India and England, will be avenged; blood

will pay for blood and life for life, but we hope it will not be a war of indiscriminate vengeance; the British flag, which has now been trampled down upon and torn into pieces, will be unfurled again over the citadel of Kabul. But the life that is gone will not come back, the master-spirit that arose in this war will not revisit this world, the guiding genius of the Affghan corps is hushed into death. The man, who had become almost an Affghan among the Affghans, who held the talisman, which charmed the wild and treacherous tribes on the border, who in his desperate career to tame these tribes had, it might be said, carried his life in his hand for the last twelve years, has at last fallen a victim to his own confidence and courage. But he and his glorious little band did not succumb without a brave fight—without disputing with the assailants every inch of ground, without giving them a hard reckoning, without fully vindicating British pluck, British spirit, and British character.

In the greatness of the grief, which has filled both India and England, the mind refuses to enquire whether the disaster could have been averted. The enquiry will, however, be made sooner or later; the British nation will not remain content with the mere news of the disaster and death. It was a rash act of our Governmet to have quartered our Envoy in the heart of Kabul—in the very jaws of Danger and Death. It is true that the proposal first came from Yakub Khan, but our statesmen ought to have foreseen the risks which they incurred by accepting it. Yakub had practically become an adventurer. The game, which he had played to establish his claim to the throne of his father, had been lost. He had been imprisoned and broken in spirit. The adherents, who were attached to his cause, had gradually dropped off. His was a forlorn hope; it suddenly revived on the departure of his father from Kabul, to which he was not destined to return; he was appointed Regent, and afterwards became the recognized Ruler of Affghansthan. He saw that his future depended upon the good will and support of the British, and so he patched up a peace. But that peace, it would seem, was not popular with his subjects, and the insurgent regiments from Herat, though promised payment of their arrears, by attacking the Palace and the Residency gave we fear expression to the popular feeling or rather the military feeling on the subject. It was a rash act to have located the British Envoy in the heart of Kabul, it was rasher still to have sent him with an escort of 75 men. It might be that Louis Cavagnari had himself suggested the number, but it was notorious that he defied danger and death. It should have been remembered that it was not the life of this redoubted hero which hung in the balance, though it was a most valuable life. With it was bound up the great cause of British Power in Central Asia—Cavagnari had gone as the visible representative of the British nation in Kabul, as the personal embodiment of British prestige in Affghansthan, as the living symbol of the triumph which British arms and diplomacy had achieved. The person of such a man ought to have been guarded by a more suitable escort then a paltry body of 75 men. But the deed is done, the mistake is now past redemption, and it is therefore vain to lament over it. The English nation will not however forget that if Lord Lytton was so ready to take the glory of the "unparalled success" of the Affhan war, his Lordship must now be prepared to take the responsibility of this sad and disastrous blunder.

The Army of Retribution has marched to the scene of the outrage. No time has been lost in fitting it out. There has been a most commendable activity. Of course no money consideration will restrain the Government for taking a swift vengeance. But as a morning contemporary asks, vengeance upon whom? The Amir according to all accounts was himself helpless. He had apparently lost all control over his soldiers and subjects. Nothing has transpired which proves his complicity with the infuriated insurgents. On the contrary his Palace was beseiged, his General attacked, his son stoned. Rumours are rife that the Amir is dead, but whether dead or alive, if he has remained faithful to the British, no vengeance can righteously betake upon him, or his household. As for the populace of Kabul, they seem to be of all classes, and no avenger will be so hard-hearted as to kill them indiscriminately. A few supposed ring-leaders may be caught and blown away from the guns, but will that conquer in the Affghan breast the hatred of the Feringhi? Again, after retribution is meted out, what will be the future policy of our Government in Affghansthan? Will it annex the territory? It will be dangerous to do so, for the annexation of Affghansthan will never pay? It is a poor unproductive country, while its people are wild, treacherous and reckless, and to maintain such a country in subjugation would require an enormous number of men and an enormous amount of money. Is India in a position to pay this cost? We say, emphatically, No! The military occupation of Affghansthan would come to much the same thing, *minus* the cost of civil administration. It is impossible to foresee the course of events in Affghansthan, that is to say, whether the people will fight or quietly succumb. If they fight, the British arms are sure to triumph ultimately, but the cost will be tremendous. If they submit quietly, it will be a temporary lull; it is not the nature of the Affghan to keep quiet. And in that case too there must be an enormous permanent expenditure for the occupation of the country. The problem before the Government is very difficult. To go back is as tedious as to go forward.

THE FAMINE IN KASHMIR.

IT is amusing to observe the strange inconsistency with which British Indian critics venture to assail the administration of famine relief in the territories of His Highness the Maharajah of Kashmir. Well may His Highness's subjects retort—physician heal thyself! What has been the history of Famines in British territories in India since the establishment of British Power in the East? The direst Famine, which had visited Bengal within the last hundred and ten years, and of which we have authentic records, was that which occurred in the middle of the last century. It was the Great Famine of 1769-70. It was occasioned by the general failure of the amun crop in 1769, preceded by a bad season in 1768, and by an unusually scanty harvest in 1770. In December 1870 the failure of the crops was well ascertained, but the Government, which had even then five times the present resources of the Maharaja of Kashmir, did nothing to alleviate distress. The months of January, February March and April passed away. In May the Supreme Council suddenly awoke to find itself in the midst of universal and irremediable starvation. "The mortality," wrote the Supreme Council to the Court of Directors, "the beggary exceeds all description. Above one-third of the inhabitants have perished in the once plentiful province of Purneah, and in other parts the misery is equal." With a view to keep down prices, the Government we read issued an edict and proclamation, or advertisement as Hastings termed it, against hoarding and buying up grain, which was fixed up on the doors of the Court-houses, Revenue-offices, and other public places throughout the Company's dominions. "While a third of a generation of the poor," says Dr. Hunter, "all through May or June went on dying, without any further efforts to relieve them, at the very end of June the first mention is made of public contributions and of importations of grain from other provinces." "Of these contributions all that can be safely affirmed is," continues Dr. Hunter, "that Government was either a small subscriber or did not subscribe in its corporate capacity at all." Strange as it might sound the amount of land revenue remitted was £65,000 out of a demand of £1,380,000; and this was counterbalanced by an increase of 10 per cent. on the land tax of the succeeding year. It should be remembered that the State was then the sole landlord in Bengal—the permanent settlement was concluded twenty-three years after. These were the first fruits of the sad famine policy of the British Government in India.

The next great Famine occurred in 1837-38. It covered a large area of Northern India. The Government it is stated remitted 64 lakhs out of a revenue of 360 lakhs (paragraph 114 of Mr. Girdlestone's Report). It does not appear that Government undertook to import grain into the distressed Districts. At the outside, says Mr. Ward, it is doubtful whether Government in 1837-38 spent more in charity than £80,000 Regarding the sums spent by Government in charity in 1860-61, we have more complete information. We take the following account of expenditure in the North-Western Provinces and in the Punjab from Mr. Girdlestone's report on famines, as digested by Mr. Ward in his report to the Bengal Government dated the 1st September 1871:

1860-61.	Rs.
Gratuitous relief in the North-West Provinces...	78,534
Remissions of revenue in the North-Western Provinces	2,34,616
" " Punjab ...	6,74,525
Total. ...	9,87,706

There was no importation of grain on Government account. What sum, if any, was spent on gratuitous relief in the Punjab is not stated; but, if we add to the above Rs. 80,000 on this account, it may be assumed that the total sum spent by Government in pure charity during the famines of 1860-61 did not exceed altogether £107,000.

The Orissa Famine of 1866 was a terrible calamity, and notwithstanding the hue and cry raised the Government did not spend more than three quarters of a million. In 1868-69 the North-Western Provinces were again visited with a famine, and our Government did not then expend more than half a million on relief measures. In 1873-74 the Government of India for the first time recognized the obligation of the state to save its suffering subjects from starvation. This manifest duty to humanity was nobly acknowledged by Lord Northbrook. Then the famine relief measures cost the State about nine crores of rupees. And lastly came the famine of 1877-78 in the Western and Southern Presidencies, and notwithstanding the sad lessons in the past the present Government of India proclaimed this astounding principle. It said that "a Government has no better right in times of scarcity than in other times to attempt the task of preventing all suffering, and of giving general relief to the poorer classes of the community. False and mischievous ideas on this subject have become so prevalent, that the Government runs some risk of being charged with inhumanity, when it declares that these are the principles by which it intends to be guided. The Governor General in Council will not be deterred by such considerations as these from a course of action which he knows to be right. Everyone admits the evils of indiscriminate private charity, but the indiscriminate charity of a Government is far worse." The change of spirit in the Government necessarily led to a change in the administration of Famine relief in 1877-78 with a terrible morality as the result of the changed policy. We have no authentic records of mortality from the past famines in British India, but it is believed that the deaths in 1870-71 amounted to ten millions, in 1836-37 about two millions, in 1860-61 about a million, in 1866-67 about a million and a half, in 1868-69 about a million, and in 1877-78 according to one estimate 6 millions, and according to another about 3 millions.

With these facts before us surely we ought not to pelt stones at the Maharaja of Kashmir. His country is unfortunately situated; the means of communication are very defective and the resources of the State very limited. And still has the Maharaja been idle or apathetic? According to a correspondent of the *Englishman* the Maharaja has been buying rice at Rs. 10 per maund and selling it to his suffering subjects at 10 annas, 40,000 maunds have been imported by Mr. Russell and Setti Ram Rutton, contractors, by the Bhimbur and Murree routes respectively, and 1,20,000 maunds altogether have been brought *via* Jamu by direct agency. Relief works, we are told, have been opened, which supply food to about 5,000 paupers, and "there are no fewer than seventeen poor-houses in Srinuggar alone, where food is given to the utterly helpless, every day, without et or hindrance. Those who can afford to

purchase food, get what they want from the shops established by Government in different parts of the city, of which there are over 120 in number. These shops are under the control of a General Committee. Each man is allowed to get a seer and a half of grain daily. There has been of course peculation in the administration of relief, but why should the sins of the under-officers be visited upon the head of the Maharaja? His Highness is doing his best to keep these officers under control, but it is not practicable to prevent abuse and peculation altogether." Even under the well-ordered machinery of the British Government have abuses in the administration of famine relief been unknown? Did not contractors amass almost fabulous fortunes during the Bengal Famine of 1873-74? Was not looting common among the lower order of officers, who were charged with the administration of relief, but who had the hardihood of reviling the Governor General or the Lieutenant Governor on that score?

And yet we hear cries against the Maharaja of Kashmir, not only reproaching his Government but openly recommending the annexation of his territory. Just turn the table and consider what would have been the feelings of our rulers if a European nation had cried out for the subversion of British rule in India, because of the failure of the British Government to recognize its duty in the past to save the lives of its subjects from starvation, and to prevent abuse and peculation when it did recognize that duty. The Maharaja has not been wanting in his sense of humanity or obligation to his subjects. He has not stinted his means or neglected the claims of the poor. He has not spared himself or his officers. And yet he is accused of heartlessness and incompetency. It is all very well to indulge in tall talk in criticising others, but we wish these critics would bear in mind that criticism like charity should begin at home. It is we do not hesitate to say arrant nonsense to talk of the annexation of Kashmir on the ground of the Famine sufferings of the people of that State.

THE SECOND MUNICIPAL ELECTION OF CALCUTTA.

WE gave in a recent issue the statistics of the second municipal election of Calcutta. We regret much that the European rate-payers do not evince a sufficiently lively interest in the municipal affairs of the town, but the list of electors shews that the leading commercial firms, tradesmen, members of the legal profession, and others have allowed their names to be registered. We have at random taken a hundred European names from the list of electors, which we give below:

Sir Richard Garth
Mr. J. B. Roberts
" James Wilson
" F. F. Wyman
Rev. S. J. Carrette
Mr. W. J. Wilkins
" A. J. Wilson
" R. Blechynden
" D. J. Ezra
" A. B. Inglis
Major H. S. Jarret
Mr. A. M. Nash
" A. Watkins
" P. D. Waugerfield
Dr. T. E. Charles
Mr. A. Cox,
Dr. H. Cayley
Mr. A. Carruthers
" R. J. Carbery
" W. C. Fife
" G. Gregory
" Elias S. Gubboy
" A. P. Gasper
" N. P. Gillanders
" J. Humpidge
" T. R. Munro
" H. H. Remfrey
" E. T. Robert
" H. Rantenbergh
Dr. K. Macleod
Mr. M. M. Zorab
" J. Belchambers
" J. Bird
" A. W. Chambers
" R. Ewing
" E. Stapleton
" R. H. Walker
Rev. C. H. A. Dall
Mr. P. W. Fleury
" W. E. French
" N. C. Joakim
" M. R. Shircore
" G. M. Smidt
" Robert Sinclair
" Owen Aratoon
Mr. C. J. Brookes
" Thomas Brown
" L. H. E. Beer
" E. N. Cantwell
Mess. Carritt and Company
Mr. H. S. D'Souza
" J. E. Davis
" M. Dover
" H. R. Fink
" E. B. Geodall
" H. W. Hallet
" James Heckle
" A. N. Handlay
" C. D. Hill
" A. W. Harrison
" W. H. Jones
" H. J. S. Leslie
Messrs. Lewis Stuart & Co
Mr. C. D. Linton
" N. J. Lord
" F. McAlpine
" S. K. MacDonald
" J. D. Montieth
" W. A. Montriou
Mess. Mackenzie Layall & Co.
Mr. J. C. Orr
" W. J. Pittar
" E. M. Pascal
" J. Parker
" C. Ross
" C. C. Robinson
Mess. Roberts Morgan & Co.,
Mr. J. Reid
" W. Swinhoe
" J. Williams
Mr. J. H. Wheeler
Mess. A. Harris & Co.
Mr. J. E. Wetherill
" H. Fornaro
" C. M. O'Brien
" S. H. D. Cohen
" W. R. Collins
Messrs. Crooke Rome & Co.
" Finlay Muir & Co.
Mr. M. J. Galstin
Messrs. J. Allan and Company
Messrs. Bourne and Shepherd
Mr. J. P. O'Conor
" G. T. Doucett
" J. R. Hayes
" J. S. Jebb
Mess. Payne and Company
Mr. A. J. Sutherland
Mess. Berigny and Company
Messrs. Gisbourne & Co.
" Gladstone Wyllie & Co.
Mr. R. Isaac
Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co.
" Kettlewell Bullen & Co.
Mr. R. Mitchel
" J. K. Moran
Messrs. Simpson & Co.
" Schœne Kilburn & Co.
" Williamson Brothers
Mr. George Yule

As regards the native community there is not a single family of standing and repute, which is not borne on the electors' list. All classes of native gentlemen, zemindars, merchants, landholders, house-owners, lawyers, doctors, tradesmen, and others have registered their names. And the franchise has been availed of not only by Hindus of Bengal, but also Mahomedans, Upcountry Hindusthanis, Marwaris, Madrasis, in fact by all classes of the native population of the town. We cull a hundred names at random from the list of native electors:

Hon'ble Maharaja Jotendro Mohun Tagore Bahadoor c.s.i.
Maharaja Norendra Krishna Bahadur
Raja Komul Krishna Bahadur
" Rajendro Narayan Deb Bahadur
" Harendro Krishna Bahadur
" Rajendro Mullick Bahadoor
Babu Gobin Lal Seal
" Doorga Churn Law
" Kali Krishna Tagore
" Dijendro Nath Tagore
" Anoopchand Mittra
" Hurroprosad Ghose
" Nilmony Mittra
" Sreenath Ghose
" Chundilal Singh
" Shamachurn Law
" Shamchund Mittra
" Charoo Chunder Mullick
" Chunderkant Mookerjee
" Jogodishnath Roy
" Obhoychurn Gooho
" Denonath Mullick
" Dhurmdas Bose
" Dwarkanath Dutt
" Pearymohun Roy
" Rajendranath Mitter
Dr. Rajendralala Mittra
Mr. W. C. Benerji
Babu Bholanath Mullick
" Babulal Kanyelal
" Bolodeb Das Bangsilal
" Bhagobattychurn Mullick
" Balkrishna Das
" Foolchand Johori
" Foolchand Makhoolal
" Harendranath Tagore
" Haronath Mullick
" Jodoolal Mullick
" Madhub Kissen Sett
" Nandalal Mullick
" Preonath Sett
" Pearychand Mittra
" Protapa Chundra Ghoosha
" Rajmohun Dutt
" Romanath Dutt
" Sreenath Roy
" Bolyechand Singh
" Greeshchunder Ghose
" Taracknath Pramanick
" Bholanath Dutt
" Okhoycoomar Seal
" Muddunmohun Chatterjee
" Jobonkristo Ghose
Dr. Kanyelal Dey Rai Bahadur
Babu Banymadhub Bose
" Gobindchunder Dutt
" Harochunder Dutt
" Omeshchunder Dutt
" Amirtanath Mitter
" Tarachand Gooho
" Persad Das Dutt
" Sreenath Chunder
" Ramanath Law
Aga Hazie Abdool Rohamon
Aga Mohamad
Akbar Khully
Babu Golapchand Hurruckchand
" Gyapersad Balmucund
" Gyapersad Mullick
" Koonjbehary Mullick
" Greeshchunder Das Rai Bahadur
Hazi Ismail Bin
Hajee Abdoolla
Zafir Sheraj Mohamed Hazi
Mohamed Jaffer
Mohamed Ibrahim
Babu Premchand Boral
" Sagur Dutt
" Rajendra Dutt
" Dwarkanath Gupta
" Tareenychurn Bauerjee
Revd. K. M. Banerjee
Babu Sreegopal Mullick
Dr. Mahendralal Sircar
Babu Jogendranarain Ghose
" Shamachurn Sircar
" Shamlal Motilal
" Ashutosh Dhur
" Chundermadhub Ghose
" Doorgamohun Das
" Kallyprosunno Ghose
" Kallymohun Das
" Moheshchunder Chowdry
" Mohinymohun Roy
" Sreenath Das
" Rashbehary Ghose
R. Mittra Esq.
Babu Surendranath Banerjee
Mr. Anundmohun Bose
" Monmohun Ghose
Moonshee Lutafat Hossain
Moulvi Ahmed
Mahomed Isoof
Newab Amir Ali Khan Bahadoor
Babu Saligram Singh
Moulvi Abdool Lutief Khan Bahadoor
Moulvi Abdool Hye
" Abdool Rajak
Newab Adboor Ruf

The registration of the names of the representative men of all classes of the community we presume implies that they acquiesce in the present system of municipal government of the town. Otherwise they would not have allowed their names to be registered. At the same time we cannot deny that the electors do not take a personal interest in it. By far the great majority of them have moved, because they have been moved by the candidates for election or by their friends and agents. It is also to be regretted that the list of candidates for election shews the greatest apathy amongst the Europeans. Of the native candidates, the number of new men likely to succeed in the election, as we are informed, is not very large. Most of the present Commissioners are it is said in possession of the field. It would certainly be an advantage to the Municipality to have back men, who do take an intelligent and active interest in the affairs of the town, but there are others who are drones and dummies, who do no work, who scarcely read the papers they receive, and who do not even regularly attend the meetings, and if they have any sense of honor and justice, they ought to make room for those whose knowledge, abilities, and energy are sure to make them more useful.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION.

THE remarks of the Lieutenant Governor on the last administration report of the Bhagulpore Division suggest some general considerations, to which we wish to draw attention. On the subject of tours the Lieutenant Governor says: "The Commissioner spent some days at the head-quarters of each district of the division, and made a long tour of 52 days through the Government Estate of the Damin-i-Koh in the Sonthal Pergunnahs. He was altogether 15 days at Monghyr, 16 days at Purneah, and 10 days at Maldah. So far therefore the absolute requirements of the rule that Commissioners shall pass at least a fortnight annually in each district of their divisions were almost fulfilled. But the Lieutenant Governor thinks that, in a light division like Bhagulpore, a great deal more than this should be done. The head-quarters inspections of Purneah, Maldah, and Monghyr might very well be done during visits paid in the course of the hot or rainy seasons, so that the greater part of the cold weather might be free for district tours, that is tours made with the object of ascertaining the actual condition of the people and the currents of popular feeling in the interior. So far as the annual reports show, the Commissioner does not appear to have spent any time during the past two years in the interior of the Monghyr, Purneah, or Maldah districts, or in North Bhagulpore; nor does he seem to have inspected any of the sub-divisions. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that the Commissioner of Bhagulpore should have no difficulty in visiting every subdivision once during the year." These remarks we submit, apply with equal force to the other, Commissioners. The rule referred to ought to be insisted upon in all cases. With regard to the condition of the people the Lieutenant Governor remarks: "Opinion is unanimous that good crops and high prices combined to increase very materially the prosperity of the cultivating classes during the year. On the other hand, it cannot be doubted that the pressure of high prices told severely on people with fixed incomes, and the classes which have to rely mainly or entirely on labour for their subsistence. In the districts of Purneah and Maldah, however, where their numbers are limited, the labouring classes derived some compensation from a rise in wages, and appear to have tided over the difficulties of the year without much hardship. The general condition of the people in these districts is very favourably spoken of by the district officers. In Purneah the most prosperous part of the population is found in the Kishengunge sub-division. The inhabitants of the northern portion of the Arrareah sub-division, and the Goalas and Brahmins of pergunnah Dhurmpore, are also said to enjoy a considerable degree of prosperity. In Maldah, where the great mass of the population is engaged in cultivation, the full advantage of the high prices of produce was enjoyed. In Bhagulpore the labouring classes suffered from the high price of food, and though there was some increase in the rates of wages, the labourers had to stint themselves to some extent in their consumption of food. There was, however, no actual starvation." The pressure of high prices is felt throughout the country. Referring to trade and commerce His Honor says: "A brisk export trade in grain was carried on during the year, but no reliable statistics of the transactions in each district are available. The returns submitted by the district officers of Monghyr and Maldah are manifestly imperfect and valueless. Rajmehal has received a large accession of trade owing to the shifting of the main stream of the Ganges to the right bank, which skirts the sub-division, while the trade of Sahebgunge is said to be declining in consequence of the recession of the river. The timber trade with Nepal is largely on the decrease. There appears to be good reason, however, for supposing that the statistics recorded at the registering stations on the frontier are incomplete." Yes, Trade statistics are generally defective. Some steps ought to

be taken to improve them. Under the head of Public Feeling occur the following remarks:

Under this head the Commissioner's remarks are not sufficiently full. He quotes at length from Mr. Boxwell's notes regarding Sonthal popular feeling, and adds some observations of his own. But on other subjects he has very little to say; nor is this to be wondered at, as he made no attempt to ascertain the views of the people for himself by personal enquiry. In Sir Steuart Bayley's opinion, it is of more importance that Government should know fully how the people of the Bhagulpore Division regard such measure as the License Tax, than that it should be placed in possession of their views on the subject of the Afghan war. It cannot, indeed, be complained that the latter subject is treated of at undue length, but the question of the License Tax is dismissed in seven lines. It has come separately to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor that there has been serious mismanagement in parts of Monghyr and Bhagulpore, and that the assessments made must be set aside. It cannot be supposed that these circumstances had no preceptible influence on popular feeling. The figures given in the section devoted to the financial results of the measure afforded unmistakeable evidence of inefficient management and of consequent hardship to the people. Against collections amounting to Rs. 2,88,448, there were remissions and refunds to the extent of Rs. 1,20,011, and a balance outstanding at the close of the year of Rs. 1,59,712. The Commissioner has doubtless examined this question thoroughly in his special report to the Board of Revenue, but the Lieutenant-Governor considers that, in a general admistration report, some more detailed notice of the public feeling on a question of such very great importance might fairly have been looked for. The war in Afghanistan is said to have excited some interest at first among the Mahomedans of Kishengunge and certain villages of Maldah. In the Sonthal Pergunnahs the Damins settlement was the absorbing topic of interest. The settlement made satisfactory progress during the year, and the terms offered have been freely accepted by the ryots. The Kharwar, or religious movement headed by Bhagirath Manjhi, continues, to attract attention, and still requires to be watched. The Lieutenant-Governor has perused with interest Mr. Boxwell's remarks regarding the new sect, and agrees with him as to the wisdom of the policy hitherto followed in dealing with the movement. The Kharwars must be kept under observation, but so long as they refrain from seditious agitation or crime all interference with them should be avoided.

The remarks on the working of the License tax are pertinent. We hope the Government will publish for general information a detailed report according to districts on the administration of the License tax. With regard to municipalities the Lieutenant Governor says: "The Municipalities of Monghyr, Jamalpore, and Deoghur continue to take precedence of all others for the efficiency with which they are administered. The Commissioner declines to endorse the very high commendation bestowed by the Magistrate of Bhagulpore on the Committee of the Bhagulpore Municipality. It is evident from the Magistrate's own admission that the roads of the town have for some time past received less attention from the Committee than they deserve. It appears, however, that efforts are now being made to improve them. The Municipalities of Purneah, Maldah, English Bazar, and Sahebgunge are said to be fairly managed." The administration of the Bhagulpore Municipality is bitterly complained of by the inhabitants as the several letters we have published shew. We hope steps have been taken to infuse vigour into it. The Resolution has the following remarks on the conduct of the zemindars:

In the last report mention was made of discontent among the tenantry of Maharajah Sir Jye Mangal Singh. Mr. Magrath has since visited the estate, but appears to have left nothing on record to show the state of affairs. It is said however, that no further complaints have been made. The Collector notices the liberality of Rai Annoda Persad Rai Bahadoor, who made a large donation to the Monghyr dispensary for the purchase of iron beds for the inmates. In Bhagulpore, Rajah Hurbullub Narain Singh Bahadoor of Sonbursa and Rai Narendra Singh Bahadoor of Burooari are spoken of as very good landlords. Some of the zemindars have given trouble in Maldah and Purneah by their illegal and unscrupulous conduct in disputes regarding the possession of lands. The conduct of Lekraj Rai is specially mentioned with disapprobation. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets to learn that the affairs of Rajah Leelanand Singh of Purneah have not improved under the management of his son. The Koer seems to be quite indifferent to advice, and it is hopeless to expect that the estate can be extricated from its embarassments under the present management.

The liberality of Rai Annadapersad Rai Bahadur is well known, and deserves a generous recognition of Government. We hope the public notice which the Lieutenant Governor has taken of the mismanagement of some of the larger estates in the division will have a wholesome effect.

FAMINES IN INDIA.

MR. R. ROGHOONATH ROW, of the Madras Uncovenanted Service, now Minister to His Highness the Maharajah Holkar of Indore, has written an able and thoughtful memorandum on the subject, which heads this article. The paper was submitted to the Famine Commission. The claims of the writer to be heard with respectful attention on the subject discussed by him will be acknowledged by all persons, who are acquainted with his official career. As a distinguished Deputy Collector in the Madras Uncovenanted Service, Mr. Roghoonath Row, made the revenue system prevalent in that Presidency his special study; and his connection with Indore during the past five or six years has given him rare opportunities to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the working of the land tenures in vogue in the Native States of India. The utterances of such a man on the most important public question of the day in this country are entitled to careful consideration, more especially as the writer speaks with the authority of personal knowledge.

The position which Mr. Roghoonath Row takes up in the paper before us, is that the true course of Indian famines is to be found in the tenure of land; and that their recurrence can only be prevented by "a fixed land tenure and remunerative public works." He points out that "the soil has been declared to belong to the Empress, and its cultivators have been styled tenants-at-will." The tillers of the soil being thus nothing better than laborers, they have no interest in its improvement. The people's rights of property in the land were recognized by the Native Governments which preceded the British. The Native Princes, however arbitrary or capricious in other respects, always respect the rights of the people in the land. The cultivators in the temporarily settled parts of India having no interest in the improvement of their lands, neglect its cultivation, and the people consequently becomes impoverished. The outturn which has for sometime past been steadily on the decrease is now, Mr. Roghoonath Row observes, "barely sufficient to enable the cultivators to pay Governmental rent." He then goes on to say:—"An indifferent season makes the matter worse. A bad season leaves the cultivators nothing to eat. Hence famines. If one bad season follows another starvation and deaths occur, which it has been found by the strongest of Governments imposible to avert." There can be no doubt that until property in land is acknowledged and upheld by the British Government, the soil of India will not be improved by the expenditure of capital.

Under Native rule, the ryots, as Mr. Roghoonath Row says, used to pay to the State nominally one-half share of the gross produce of the land in kind, and to appropriate the remainder to their own use. But they must now sell at least 75 per cent of the gross produce to satisfy the Government demand, which is collected in cash. What is the consequence? Mr. Roghoonath Row thus answers the question:—"The remainder is not sufficient for him and his family. He is obliged therefore to borrow, but he has no security to give. The worst of Shylocks becomes his banker. He lends him grain at usurious interest in grain, on the security of the next harvest. By the time it comes, the quantity of grain due to the banker takes from the harvest what may be due to him. The remainder, if any, is found too little for the payment of the tax to Government. It will be collected with the greatest punctuality, even by the confinement of the cultivator in jail. To avert the deprival of the land he has been tilling and at times even of his personal liberty, he enters into fresh engagement with his banker, who is only too glad to enter into negotiation with him. He at once promises to pay down the Government tax punctually on the security of the land and its future harvest and takes prossession of the remnant of the past harvest, on promise of giving the cultivator what he may need. From this time he becomes the slave of his banker. He gets his bonds renewed on the ground that the law of limitation render it absolutely necessary. At each time this is done, the amount of interest due up to date is amalgamated with the principal. The rate of interest which is invariably usurious now becomes compound. The banker sometime after sues the cultivator for the debts due to him, well knowing that the cultivator could not pay him off as a rule. Such cases go often *ex parte* and the banker obtains a decree against the cultivator on the security of his land. This he does not execute at once, but gives something to the cultivator to keep his body and soul together and cultivate the land for the benefit of the banker who appropriates the whole produce. If rains fail and there be no prospect of a harvest the banker stops all payments to the cultivator. He has no grain at home, none in the field and the banker gives him none. What is the result? a dire famine, starvation and deaths." We commend the passage just quoted to the attentive consideration of the Government of India, which is resolved to carry Mr. Hope's Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Bill through the Legislative Council. It is as clear as the most elementary proposition that the hardness of the revenue system both assessment and collection, drive the cultivator to the necessity of borrowing; but the Executive Government shows no disposition to recognise this fact. The cultivators in the temporarily settled parts of the country, it may be broadly stated, have no resources beyond the current harvest.

To remedy the lamentable state of things described above, Mr. RoghooNath Row suggests that land "should be most openly and solemnly declared to be private property subject only to payment of tax to Government;" and that "the tax should be declared to consist of a fixed proportion of its net produce, that is, a fixed quantity of grain," not exceeding one-third of the net produce, the other two-thirds being left to the cultivator. He does not propose the collection of the land revenue in kind—a proposal which is enough to make the hairs of John Bull stand on end. He would convert the share of the produce payable to Govetnment into cash according to the average market rate of a number of past years, excluding extraordinary years. Such a settlement, Mr. Roghoonath Row, declares, will give a stimulus to industry and enterprise, and enable the cultivators to lay by something for a rainy day. We are, however, strongly of opinion taht the mere fixation of the proportion of the net produce of the land payable to the State will not meet the necessities of the case. The annual valuation of the Government share will be attended with a vast deal of inconvenience, trouble, irritation and expense. Indeed, the mere fixation of the proportion of the produce of the land payable to the Government will be no permanent settlement at all. Uncertainty in the amount payable in cash would be productive of all the evils which result from an uncertain system of taxation. Uncertainty in the amount of tax payable opens a wide door to oppression and fraud on the part of the subordinate officers of Government. John Stuart Mill makes the following thoughtful remarks on this point:—"Uncertainty, from whatever source, is a cause of uneasiness. The mind is continually haunted with the idea of the worst, and with all the fears which attend it; fears, often very great and tormenting. As soon as a source of chicanery is opened about the amount which the contributor should pay, a source of extortion is opened and a source of oppression, necessary to effect the extortion." The blessings of the permanent settlement which Bengal enjoys should be extended to the whole of India.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE HEAR that Sir Steuart Bayley will return to Calcutta on the 18th instant.

THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION have forwarded to the Government of Bengal the memorial against the reduction of Durga Puja holidays, signed by 7781 Hindus. If there had been time it would have been subscribed to by ten times as many persons. The memorialists have solicited that if the Lieutenant-Governor has already made a recommendation to the Government of India on the subject, His Honor will be pleased to forward the memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General for consideration. We do hope that His Excellency will not turn a deaf ear to this national appeal of Bengal. The gain to the State by the reduction of the Durga Puja holidays from 12 to 8 days will not be much, for practically it will be only a saving of 2 days *minus* the Lukshmi Puja holidays, while the loss to the

Hindu employes of Government will be very great. Why unnecessarily cause heart-burning and dissatisfaction among a devoted class of subjects?

"THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA has not honored but has dishonored the young Maharaja of Durbhanga, by conferring upon him the title of Maharaja as a personal distinction. The Durbhanga House is one of the most ancient in Behar, and the title had been hereditary in the family, but the Viceroy has made it personal. Surely this is a move backwards. The way in which the young Maharaja has been treated by the Government or its representatives is instructive. His estate was managed by the Court of Wards; if an officer like Mr. Harvey had managed it, the accumulations would have perhaps amounted to about a crore and a half, but they now amount to about one-fifth of that sum, while his family title is reduced to a "personal distinction!" Well may the *Daily News* say—"this is a decided mistake."

HAS HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy noticed that there is a conspiracy somewhere to destroy the usefulness of the Press Commissioner? If His Excellency will compare the private telegram of the *Pioneer* dated the 7th instant, with the Press Commissioner's telegram to the Press dated the 9th idem, he will perceive what we mean. We give the two telegrams below:

Pioneer's Telegram.

Simla, 7th Sept.—Several messengers from Cabul have reached Ali Kheyl. Some have seen the bodies of the British Envoy and suite. No doubt remains concerning their fate. Nine sowars of the escort, who were out grass-cutting, have escaped. A stubborn defence was made by the Envoy's party. The loss of the Cabulees was heavy. The mutineers at last burned down the doorway and swarmed in. Letters have been received from the Ameer asking the British for help, and his exact position is not at present known. He speaks of himself as besieged, and the whole city seems in insurrection. General Roberts will advance on Cabul by the Shuturgardan immediately, supported by a movement from the Khyber. It remains to be seen whether the mutineers will attempt resistance. In any case General Roberts will occupy the capital, and the further policy of the Government will then be considered. The country is all quiet round the Shuturgardan. Badshah Khan, Ghilzai, the principal Chief of that neighbourhood, loyally volunteers his services. Colonels Baker and Macgregor have started to join General Roberts, also some junior members of the Viceroy's staff and Mr. Durand as Political Secretary. Sir R. Sandeman is at Kandahar, which General Stewart has re-occupied; Major St. John is also there.

Press Commissioner's Telegram.

Simla, September 9.—The bearer of the Amir's letter stated that the dead bodies of the Envoy, Staff, and Escort were seen at the Residency. The defence was very stubborn, and the loss of the Kabulies heavy, roughly estimated at 100 or more. Finding they could not storm the place, the mutineers set fire to the doorway below, and when that gave way, swarmed in and up to the upper storey and overwhelmed the defenders and sacked the Residency. Sirdar Sher Ali Khan, Governor of Kandahar, on being informed of events at Kabul, expressed his absolute devotion to the British Government, and offered to raise a contingent among the Doorani Tribes to march on to Kabul with a British force, if sent from Kandahar.

It will be seen that the news contained in the two telegrams is identical, with the exception of a few remarks of the *Poineer*'s Special. Even in some instances the words are the same. But the Press Commissioner's telegram was delayed two days! What can be the cause of this? We can believe that the Press Commissioner is not to blame. It is generally believed that the *Pioneer* has access to the back-stairs of Peterhoff. If Lord Lytton cannot resist the influences, which made the Allahabad paper a *quasi*-Government organ in the days of Strachey-cum-Lord Mayo, his Lordship had better abolish the Press Commissioner.

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following notice in the *Statesman*:

We are happy to inform our readers, under advices from Mr. Knight, that arrangements are being fully matured for the publication of the new paper in London in the first week of November. Mr. Knight has exercised, we have no doubt, a sound discretion in deferring to the representation made to him both by the publishing world and by leading political men, that it would be a grave error to announce the journal just as the Parliament session was over, and the long autumn vacation about to set in. Subscribers will be glad to hear that Ma. Knight's project meets with a singular amount of favor at home, and even enthusiasm. It was his intention to produce a specimen copy of the journal in anticipation of its regular appearance but from advices received by the mail, we learn that objections of considerable weight have been adduced against this course, and that the intention may possibly be abandoned. We are asked to intimate that if it should be determined to issue a 'specimen' copy, it will probably not be before the end of the present month. Whatever decision may be arrived at, subcribers may rest satisfied that it will be controlled by desire to make the most favourable impression, at starting, upon the public mind. Meanwhile, we shall be glad to continue to enrol subscribers to the new paper the regular issue of whichwill begin not later than the fist week of November. Mr. Knight's observations upon the state of parties at home has convinced him that the delay which has taken place will be a gain in all repects, both to the promoters of the enterprise and to its supporters.

Make no haste but good speed—is a good motto. Mr. Knight is quite right in acting upon it. We need hardly add that it rests with the Indian public to make his interprise a success.

SIR MICHAEL WESTROPH, Chief Justice of Bombay, has set a noble example. He has recommended the reduction of the salary of his own office by one thousand rupees a month. We wish other high functionaries in British India on receipt of princely allowances would shew a similar laudable spirit of self-sacrifice. Lord William Bentick, when he projected his scheme of economy, began by cutting down his salary by half a lakh of rupees per annum.

WE HAVE received a batch of papers relating to the Buddibaty Police case. Some weeks ago we noticed it in these columns. It would appear from these papers that an attempt has been made departmentally to screen the Sub-Inspector, whose conduct forms the subject of the memorial to the Lieutenant Governor. Referring to the departmental report, the petitioners remark:

With due deference to the superior and exalted position of the Joint Magistrate, and without intending to question in any way his regard for justice and fair play, we crave permission to observe that the report of the 18th June seems to partake more the character of a defence of the Sub-Inspector than a simple and unbiassed statement of the facts disclosed in the enquiry, and of the conclusions drawn from those facts. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor can scarcely fail to perceive that throughout the report there is apparent an unconscious though persistent attempt to shield the Sub-Inspector from blame; to keep the main facts of the case in the background by directing the reader's attention to all sorts of possibilities in the Sub-Inspector's favor; to weaken the gravity of an offence and extenuate the turpitude and enormity of a crime by trying to attribute unworthy motives to the aggrieved complainants, and by insinuating doubts as to the veracity of respectable and disinterested witnesses. In every paragraph the report breathes rather the subtle dexterity of an advocate than the blind and stern impartiality of a Judge.

Divested of all superfluous remarks unfounded suspicions and baseless insinuations, the report only serves to bring out the following results:—The charge of habitual intemperance and mischievous, illegal and scandalous conduct has been fully proved, with the exception of certain slight and immaterial discrepancies by the complete establishment of the two instances adduced in the petition and by the unanimous corroborative testimony of a large number of persons assembled at the place of enquiry. The charge of extortion has also been fully substantiated by the most unimpeachable evidence in a case in which the Sub-Inspector has screwed out the sum of rupees ten from a poor, innocent Brahmin of the name of Poornochunder Ghosaul, under the threat of searching the persons of his female relatives for the recovery of a gold earring falsely alleged to have been missing out of the property of an intestate estate. The Joint Magistrate however considers the evidence insufficient to prove a general accusation on either point.

We are told that the Sub-Inspector has resigned and that he has thus placed himself beyond the control of Government. But if the charges brought against him are found to be true, we hope the Government will mark its sense of displeasure by interdicting his re-employment in future.

THE NATIONAL MAHOMEDAN ASSOCIATION has passed the following Resolution on the subject of the new Civil Service Rules:

That the views of the Association should be submitted to the Government in the new rules for the appointment of the natives of India to the Civil Service, the Commitee being of opinion that in consideration of the insufficient data at present before the Association, no definite idea of the Government scheme could be formed, but that the Committee hoped that in the distribution of the patronage, Mahomedan interest would be taken care of. The Committee were also of opinion that the proposition to fix the pay of the native employes on a lower scale than that of the Europeans is likely to cause mischief and to lower the prestige of the new nominees in the eyes of the uneducated classes, and that for the purpose of carrying the resolution properly into effect, it was necessary that both European and natives should be placed on an equal footing and that the trial should not as a matter of course commence at the bottom.

The Mahomedan Association as well as others, who are advocating equality of pay between English and Native Civilians, we cannot help saying, are over-shooting the mark. It is preposterous that the same price should be paid for an indigenous and imported article. As for loss of prestige, it cannot be avoided, whether the two classes of Civilians are paid alike or not, if an invidious distiction be made in their treatment. We should insist more upon equal treatment, that is to say as regards powers and promotion, than upon equal pay. The Premier of England is paid half the salary of the Lord Chancellor, but does he suffer in official position and social consideration by reason of his lower pay?

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following extracts from the letter of Mr. H. S. Cunningham to the Government of India in the Legislative Department regarding the new Criminal Procedure Bill:

As one of the Judges whose duty it will be to administer the new law, and as having had practical experience of the inconveniences to which its re-arrangement on a wholesale scale gives rise, I feel bound to endeavour to dissuade the Government from passing a measure, one principal object of which appears to be to obliterate, as far as possible the arrangement of the law of Criminal Procedure which, seven years ago, Sir James Stephen, after the fullest consideration, and with the assistance of co-adjutors as distinguished as Sir John Strachey and Sir George Campbell, adopted as the most intelligible and convenient.

I speak with the more emphasis because I warned the Government before the passing of the Civil Procedure Code of what I felt certain its results would be. The Legislature—against the opinion of, I believe every Judge and barrister in the country—thought fit to throw over the arrangement of the Civil Procedure Code, with which we were all familiar and to inflict upon us a monster measure which its framers, I suppose, considered more symmetrical than that which it replaced.

The result was, that, within a month, every High Court was holding Full-Bench sittings to puzzle out the meaning of the Act; numerous blunders were discovered; great additional trouble in the administrative departments of the Courts was occasioned; a large class of appeals was thrown into such utter confusion that some Judges absolutely refused to hear them till the Act was amended; and after we had for a year been vainly endeavouring to solve the problem of how to construe a meaningless section' the Legal Members was constrained in Council to admit that he did not, and never had, understood it himself. As to the general accuracy of the new Code, it is enough to say that the amending Act, just passed, contains no less than 108 sections, each of which, in many instances contains several amendments; and I know it to be the opinions of some members of the Legislature that even now, the Code is far from completeness, that another amending Act is at no distant date, inevitable.

I anticipate much the same results in the criminal courts if this measure is passed. In the accompanying Note I have pointed out some of the points where confusion will arise, mistakes be committed, and the general administration of the law impaired The provisions of the Bill as to limitation seem to me unnecessary and out of place, and those as to compounding offences inconceivably bad. Their re-consideration is indispensable.

Mr. Cunnigham is brother-in-law of Sir James Stephen, and he may well be partial to the work of his dear brother. But the public we may say are not in love with the Criminal Procedure Code of Sir James Stephen. At the same time we do not like the constant tinkering of law. If Mr. Whitley Stokes has not the courage to wipe out the blunders of the Stephen Code, which we have over and over pointed out, and which are inconsistent with the liberty of the subject, he had better not touch it.

MR. LALMOHUN GHOSE is winning his way in England. On the 18th ultimo a public meeting was held at the Horns Tavern, Kensington, to hear an address by Mr. Lalmohun Ghose, Barrister-at-Law, Calcutta, on "The Native View of Indian Questions." Sir J. C. Lawrence presided, supported by Mr. M'Arthur, M. P., Mr. G. Palmer, M. P., Mr. E. Jenkins, M. P., Mr. H. Pratt, Mr. F. W. Chesson, Mr. H. Broadhurst, &c. There was a very large attendance, the audience including a large proportion of ladies. The chairman in introducing the speaker said: "Dear to that gentleman was the future of his native land—dear to him was its progress and he would be delighted to know that there were gathered around him sympathising friends, who would endeavour to learn more of that country, and endeavour to promote, as far as they could, a knowledge of the relations which ought to exist between a powerful country like England, and a struggling people like India." Mr. Lalmohun Ghose addressed the meeting at length, dwelling upon most of the topics, which he had noticed at the meeting at Willis's Rooms. He shewed the precarious and inelastic nature of the Indian revenue, and justly condemned the License tax. He asked, "what would be thought in this country if the poor-rates were levied exclusively on the class from which paupers came? And yet this was the principle which underlies the new taxes imposed by the Indian Government." He advocated the extension of a permanent settle ment of the land revenue throughout

India, but we are sorry to see that he seemed to waver in his opinion. He remarked: "A measure was loudly called for to fix the land tax where it was not fixed, if not in perpetuity, for a sufficient number of years, in order that the people might feel free to enjoy the benefit of their own labor." A temporary settlement of the land revenue "for a sufficient number of years" is not what India wants. Bombay and Northern India have a thirty years' settlement, and is the condition of the peasantry there comparable with that of the same class in permanently settled Bengal? We refer him as well as others who may have doubts on the point to Mr. Dacosta's pamphlet on the subject, which we reviewed last week. Referring to the new Civil Service Rules Mr. Ghose said "the situation had been somewhat altered by the new rules issued by Her Majesty's Government; but he thought all classes in India would have preferred a system of open competition of a fair play and no favor, to the system of nomination which had been actually adopted." Yes, we all want competition, but we wish Mr. Ghose had made it clear that we want it in India and not in England. We are glad to see that Mr. Ghose boldly challenged the enemies of Indian progress about the alleged charge of corruption and immorality among educated natives holding responsible posts under Government. He said:

"But, Sir, there is another matter in connection with this subject to which I shall ask your permission to advert for a moment before resuming my seat. (Cries of 'go on.) It has been suggested from time to time by certain so-called Indian authorities that there is one great objection to the larger employment of my countrymen in the higher offices of the public service; viz that 'our standard of morality is so low (oh! oh!) that we are so amenable to bribery and corruption that by admitting as freely into the more responsible offices of the State you would be seriously affecting the purity of the administration. Such was the view that was recently put forward in a leading article in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. (Oh! Oh!' and laughter.) But before making any observation of my own upon this subject, I shall quote, with your permission, a short sentence from an Anglo-Indian journal the *Pioneer*, a newspaper which is supposed to occupy a somewhat confidential relation with respect to the Government of India, and which is not at all likely to err on the side of undue partiality towards the Natives of India. Even the *Pioneer* is obliged to admit, that 'the doubts cast by the *Pall Mall* on the judicial intregrity of the Native Bench are, to a great extent, worn out prejudices * * It is seldom that a Munsiff or even a Subordinate Judge is charged with corruption, or favoritism." (Cheers) But Sir, unfounded" as the assertion is, it is still sedulously circulated by those who bear no friendly feelings towards us, and who, finding themselves unable to meet us fairly in the lists of reason and argument, have recourse to wholesale calumnies of a vague and general character. (Cries of 'shame.') Only the other day, not quite a week ago, I was told by a gentleman, whom I happened to meet at the Reform Club, that he had heard a similar statement from a retired Anglo-Indian official. Sir, I will not mention the name of that official, because I cannot say any thing complimentary of him. (Laughter.) He is a gentleman, who condescended to go out to India on the receipt of an enormous salary (laughter) who worked incalculable mischief during his official residence there, and who, for all that disservice, came back knighted to his native land. Sir, I will not trace his subsequent career in this country, for that would at once identify him. But I will venture to repeat to you to-night, the answer that I gave on that occasion. I said then and I say now, that I challenge that high authority and every body else who may be disposed to echo his sentiments, to point out one single instance of corruption amongst the numerous Native Indian gentlemen, who have, within the last 10 or 15 years, filled with honor to themselves, and with advantage to their country, the Subordinate Judicial offices all over India. (Cheers.) Of course, if you go down low enough in the social scale, if you search among the ranks of the Police, of tax gatherers and people of that class, you will have no difficulty in finding many instances of corruption and criminality. But confining ourselves to the Judicial Service which is recruited exclusively from our educated class—for that is the point at issue,—(hear, hear,) I throw out this challenge boldly and publicly to all whom it may concern; and if there is any manhood in them they will take it up, and no longer indulge in baseless and cowardly calumnies against a whole nation at whose expense they have enriched themselves, and from whose revenues they are still enjoying very comfortable pensions. (Loud cheers & cries of "shame.")

Boldly and justly said. Who could be the ex-Anglo-Indian official so pointedly referred to by Mr. Ghose. It could not be Sir James Stephen of the Criminal Procedure Code memory?

The English speakers who followed Mr. Ghose supported him. But they were mostly beside the mark. One denounced the salt tax, another the opium tax, and the third the land tax. Now, if all the taxes are to be done away with, how is the Queen's Government of India to be carried on? We wish Mr. Ghose had explained to the meeting that the people of India do not complain of the salt tax, nor do they think that the opium tax is an iniquity. As for the land tax it is the main stay of the Indian treasury, and cannot be done away with, but it ought to be fixed in perpetuity. Mr. Ghose ought to have had the courage to brush away the cobwebs of English sentimentality, otherwise he would not be doing justice to the people of India, whom he seeks to represent or find his mission successful. He should lead his English audience to view Indian question from a thoroughly practical point of view.

WE ARE glad that the *Bengalee* has rendered an explanation of the meaning of the last clause of the Resolution regarding the new Civil Service Rules adopted at the Town Hall meeting convened by the Indian Association. We will quote again the clause referred to:

This meeting is further of opinion that every reasonable facility should be afforded to natives of India to compete for the Covenanted Civil Service, and upon equal terms with Her Majesty's British-born subjects.

We remarked that this clause was vague and indefinite. Our contemporary, however, thus explains it:

Englishmen compete for the Covenanted Civil Service in their own country; Natives of India should also possess the same right. Then will natives of India compete upon terms of equality with Her Majesty's born subjects. That was what the Town Hall meeting prayed for and the language of the Resolution which our contemporary has found fault with clearly points to this interpretation.

Not quite so. We now clearly understand one thing, the Meeting desired that a competitive examination for Indian candidates should be held in India, but where will the further examination or probation be held? Our contemporary is discreetly silent upon this point. He however quotes the mover and seconder in illustration of his meaning. The mover asked that the examination should be held in India, but said nothing about the further examination or probation. The seconder was however outspoken. As our contemporary himself says, the seconder

urged that after having been successful in the open competitive examination to be held in India the selected candidates should be required to complete their education in England.

Our contemporary then goes on:

It is one thing that natives of India should be required to proceed to England at a heavy expense on the mere chance of passing a most difficult examination, and quite another thing that selected candidates after having secured a lucrative appointment should be required to leave their country to complete their education. Babu Asutosh Biswas urged that it was essential that selected candidates who would afterwards be required to take a prominent part in the government of the country should have an English training and the benefits to be derived from such a training.

The cat is out of the bag; the competitive examination for Indian candidates should be held in India but the selected candidates should be required to proceed to England to pass there the further examination or probation. Against this we protest, and because there was this intent adroitly concealed in the last clause of the Resolution we wanted that it should be made plain. If there was no such intent, why was not the vagueness removed? We are confident that if the Meeting had distinctly understood "that the selected candidates should be required to complete their education in England," it would not have adopted the Resolution. This is certain that the bulk of our countrymen do not wish that the "selected candidates should be required to complete their education in England." Confining the meaning of the clause, as explained by our contemporary, to the first examination only in India, may we ask what "facility" is required for that purpose? What is wanted is that the principle of competitive examination for Indian candidates in India should be affirmed, and in order to lay that proposition before the Meeting it was not necessary to have recourse to the periphrastic mode, to which we object. Then we asked, when the new Rules extend the minimum age of Indian nominees to the Civil Service to 25 years, do our countrymen wish that this concession should be withdrawn, because the Resolution says that the Indian candidates should be allowed "to compete upon equal terms with British-born subjects." Our contemporary in reply says:

Is it we ask correct to say that the age of the Indian candidates for the Civil Service has been extended to 25 years? Under the new rules will any Indian candidate proceeding to England to compete for the Indian Civil Service be allowed to appear at the Open Competitive examination if he is above 19 years? How then can we say that the age of Indian candidates has been extended to 25 years?

We are sorry to say that the writer wholly misses the point. We all advocate in lieu of nomination competitive examination for Indian candidates in India, but we do not object to the limit of age prescribed in the new Rules. So that whatever the minimum age for candidates competing in England, we urge that the increased limit prescribed in the new Rules should apply to Indian candidates competing in India. As we have all along opposed the minimum limit of 19 years, we naturally hail with satisfaction the increased limit of 25 years, and the Meeting was ill-advised in indirectly objecting to it by advocating a fancied equality of terms of competition between candidates competing in England and those competing in India. We think we have said enough to shew that more was meant by the clause than met the ear, and that in refusing to clear it up the promoters of the Meeting did injustice to the sense of the nation on the subject. Our contemporary might well have spared the sneers in which he has indulged himself against the British Indian Association. He is young and ought to have better memory than he seems to possess. Has he forgotten that the British Indian Association took up the Indian Association by the hand from the beginning? Did not the senior Vice-President of the British Indian Association preside at the Civil Service and Railway meetings two years ago? Did not the British Indian Association assist it in drawing up the petition against the Vernacular Press Act and by advising the proceedings of the Thanksgiving meeting? Why the British Indian Association did not in the first instance oppose the Vernacular Press Act is explained in their memorial regarding the Amending Act. It was because the Viceroy had declared that the safety of the empire required the law, though the Association in their memorial against the Amending Bill shewed that this apprehension of His Excellency was wholly groundless. Again, did not the British Indian Association assist in chalking out the programme of operations for Mr. Lalmohun Ghose, and also furnish him with some credentials? Did not the members of the British Indian Association contribute to the fund raised for the deputation of Babu Surendranath Banerjea to England to present the Civil Service memorial, and which is now being applied to the defrayal of the expenses of Mr. Lalmohun? Our contemporary is not shewing right feeling by sowing misunderstanding between the two Associations. We all should act in unison, and if there be differences of opinion in particular matters, let not our general unity be disturbed. We would not have at all alluded to the cause of the absence of the members of the British Indian Association from the late Town Hall meeting, if he had not mentioned it in the first instance by way of complaint. If he has "unfeigned respect" for us, we can tell him that we have sincere affection for him, and we have always done our best to lend him a helping hand. Let him go on and prosper is our heartfelt wish.

TELEGRAMS.

(From the Press Commissioner).

Simla September 8th.—Two or three mutinous regiments are stated to have marched from Kabul. The behaviour of the tribes along the Kuram border is at present not unfavorable. Some nine sowars who were out cutting grass escaped when the Residency was attacked.

10th. 8h. 5m.—From Alikel, 9th September,—An Afghan, who says he constantly visited the Envoy, confirms the previous accounts. He highly extols the stubbornness of the defence and the gallantry of the British Officer, and upbraids the cruelty and cowardice of the Kabulis in murdering guests. He says there were twelve regiments implicated; that first a gate way leading to the Residency courtyard was burst open and there such a resolute stand was made with rifle, sword and bayonet, that the assailants were checked; but they set fire to the house, and the defenders, charging out sword in hand, were all slain, and the place completely wrecked. The loss of the Kabulis, including some city people, is stated at 210. A guard of Guides Calvalry, who were out with grass-cutters, escaped, it is not known where. The Amir is terribly perplexed and confused at the reproach of his name The regiments had got beyond his control. Nawab Sir Gholam Hussan Khan is expected on the 7th. The Amir intends making his excuses to him. There is a rumur that some of the sepoys were taken and are still alive. The Queen Empress has telegraphed to the Viceroy the expression of her Majesty's deep concern at the news of the Kabl disaster, the loss of Sir Louis Cavagnari and the embassy, and her heartfelt sympathy for the families of all concerned.

10th. 15h. 15m.—Colonel Hugh has command of the Kurm communication, with Lieutenant Colonel Heathcote as assistant. Colonel T. Girhem commands in the Kurm, with Captain Grant, of the 78th, for his Brigade Major.

11th. 13h. 7m.—Azmatullah Khan Ghilzai, whom the Amir apparently deprived of the Khanship of Jabbar Khel Ghilzais

has been plundering Dala Bagh near Jelalabad. Akahar belonging to the Embassy, who was outside the Residency when the attack took place, has escaped and arrived at Karatiga. He says the attack began in the morning, The Residency was fired at noon, but the fight continued till evening. Believes no one escaped. Hid himself and travelled by night. Sirdar Sher Ali Khan, Governor of Kandahar, has received letters from the Amir informing him of the disaster at Kabul, and ordering him to follow the advice of the British representatives. Rawalpindi and Kohat roadwill be pushed on immediately.

11. 16h. 17m.—The Government have sanctioned a railway on the broad gauge from Sakker to Dadur. The line is expected to be completed at the rate of a mile a day. Beyond Dadur it is probable that a mountain tramway will be laid to the Bolan Pass.

12. 13h. 7m.—A confidential servant of the Amir has been deputed by him to Captain Conolly to ask advice and is detained at Ali Kheyl, pending General Roberts' arrival. The news of the state of Kabul and of the movements of the revolted regiments is conflicting. Rumours such as are likely to arise on such an occasion are afloat of the stirring of the tribes by the mutineers, but there is no positive intellegence on this point. The Amir's attitude and position are necessarily still uncertain. Emam Bux, attached to the Residency office and present with the envoy throughout the fight, hid in a drain and escaped at night. Nothing has yet been heard of the sowars who were absent on forage, nor of Nawab Sir Gholam Hussain Khan's having arrived at Kabul from Kandahar. The frontier generally is quiet. Kandahar is tranquil, and apparently well disposed.

13*th* 13h. 55m.—The Shaturgardan was occupied on the eleventh by our troops without opposition; the telegraph line is being rapidly pushed on.

13*th* 16h. 18m.—It appears that a body of the mutinous troops has gone into Zurmat in hope of stirring up the tribes to attack our flank on theShutargardan. Two sons of Allayar a leading chief of Zurmat are reported to have been killed in Residency and the incident is relied upon to stir up the people of that country. The regiments in Cabul are reported to be proclaiming their desire to fight the English but to be totally without organization or leaders. The Amir in letter written on fourth September immediately after the outbreak declared that his true frienship and honesty of purpose would be proved and General Roberts has been instructed to inform him that he has now to prove his words by his acts and that Amirs first step should be to send confidential representatives to meet General Roberts who has full power to communicate with Ameer on the part of the British Government.

14*th*, 13h, 10m.—Nawab Sir Gholam Hussan Khan has reached the Shuturgurdan safely and will arrive at Alikheyl to-day, It is not said whether he has been to Cabul Sir Robert Sundenun has reached Quettah. He reports thecountry perfectly tranquil and the Rhojuck pass cheifs and all people of the neighbourhood exceedingly well disposed and resolved to serve the British Government faithfully. The Khan of Khelat has telegraphed placing all the resources of his country at the disposal of the British Government the tribes between Kurram and Alikheyl have been working very well to assist our troops. GeneralRoberts has applied for one British and three native regiments more to strengthen his line of communication. Some reinforcements will also be made to Khyber column owing to the sickness there which is unusually great. The advanced forces remain as originally composed.

MONEY MARKET.

(*September* 13, 1879.)

GOVERNMENT LOANS.

4	Per Cent. Promissory Notes	Rs.	93	8	*a*	93 10
4½	Per Cent. of 1870 (1885).....	„	99	0	*a*	99 4
4½	Per Cent. of 1871 (1881).....	„	95	8	*a*	96 0
4½	Per Cent. of (Trans.) of 1872 (1879)	Reduced to 4 p. ct.				
4½	Per Cent. of 1878-79 (1893).....	„	100	7	*a*	100 10
4½	Per Cent. of 1879 (1893) (New loan),		100	7	*a*	100 10

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES OF 1867.

5	Per Cent. for 15 years (1882)..	Rs.	100	7	*a*	100 8

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES.

6	Per Cent. of 1864 (1884)	Rs.	107	0	*a*	107 8
6	Per Cent. of 1865 (1885)	„	107	8	*a*	108 0
6	Per Cent. of 1866 (1886)	„	108	0	*a*	108 8
6	Per Cent. of 1867 (1887)	„	108	8	*a*	109 8
6	Per Cent. of 1870 (1890)	„	110	0	*a*	110 8
6	Per Cent. of 1872 (1892)	„	110	8	*a*	111 8
6	Per Cent. of 1878 (1908)	„	102	0	*a*	102 4

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	A.	P.
Vamon Narrayen Oke Esq., Ahmednagar.....	6	8	0
Moulavi Murfudul Huq, Tangra.....	12	15	0
Dr. Guroodas Banerjee, Narkeldanga.....	13	4	0
Secretary Reading Club, Bibigunj, Dinapore	3	6	6
T. S. Nursing Row, Madras.....	6	10	0
S. Vencata Rangaiyenger, Chiekkanaienballi.....	11	4	0
Secretary ReadingClub, Nowada.....	6	8	0
Babu Ramchunder Bhomic, Dinagepore.....	13	0	0
„ Mudonmohun Dass, Mirzajangal, Sylhet	1	14	0
„ Surbessur Mozoomdar, Beerbhoom.....	8	0	0
„ Kashinath, Allahabad	3	5	0
„ Brojomohun Mitter, Allahabad.....	13	4	0
„ Oodychand Banerjee, Meerut.....	6	10	0
„ Rajanicoomar Dutt, Commillah.....	13	4	0
„ Grishchunder Bhor, Commillah.....	12	8	0
„ Shibchunder Chatterjee, Hooghly.....	20	0	0
„ Kalynath Chowdry, Julpigoori.....	13	4	0
„ Lala Ram Panrai, Ararya Aided School..	13	4	0
„ Wooma Churn Gangooly, Satkhira.....	13	4	0
„ Monmotho Nath Chowdry, Okersa.....	11	14	0
„ Aushootosh Chuckerbutty, Narayanpore	6	10	0
„ Gurupersad Das, Mongoldoi.....	13	4	0
„ Aumbicaprosonno Mezoomdur, Begumgunj	6	10	0
Babu Nobokrishnaiookerjee, Tezpur.....	5	0	0
„ Banimadob Sing, Chuprah.....	13	4	0
„ Tarreenyprosad Roy, Balasore.....	13	4	0
„ Hurrolal Kor, Panchcoorah.....	10	0	0
„ Heralal Banerjee, Dacca.....	13	4	0

ERRATUM.

For Bhaggobuttychurn Ghose, Rangoon, Read Bhugwanchunder Chuckerbatty Rungpur..... 13 4 0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*September* 10, 1879.

GENERAL.—Baboo Gouri Sunker Biswas, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Durbhanga, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Muzufferpore district.

Mr. H. Cox, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Nowada, Gya, is allowed leave for ten days, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Moulvi Rameezooddeen, supernumerary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gya, is appointed to have temporary charge of the Nowada division of that district, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. H. Cox, or until further orders.

Baboo Radha Shyam Sing, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Champarun, is transferred to the Sudder Station of the Durbhanga district.

Mr. F. A. Slack, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Julpigoree, officiated as Deputy Commissioner of that district from the afternoon of the 21st ultimo to the forenoon of the 12th instant, inclusive.

Baboo Hurro Kali Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in charge of the Jehanabad division of the Burdwan district, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act VII (B.C.) of 1868.

Baboo Sital Nath Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rungpore, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 4, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Juggobundhoo Bhattacharjee, is appointed to act until further orders, as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, and is posted to Midnapore.

Mr. J. Beames, Officiating Commissioner of Chittagong, is allowed leave for two months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil leave Code with effect from the 6th instant or any date on which he may avail himself of it.

Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, Magistrate and Collector of Chittagong is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Chittagong Division during the absence, on leave of Mr. J. Beames, or until further orders.

Mr. A. H. Haggard, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Chittagong, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of that district, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. H. J. S. Cotton, or until further orders.

Baboo Soorja Coomar Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Backergunge, was in charge of the Perozepore division of that district from the 7th to the 16th ultimo.

Mr. R. Carstairs, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector in charge of the Serampore division of the Hooghly district is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act VII (B.C.) of 1868.

Baboo Mohanund Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in charge of the Tumlook division of the Midnapore district having resumed charge of his duties on the forenoon of the 14th ultimo, the unexpired portion of the leave granted to him under orders of the 31st May last is cancelled.

POLICE.—Mr. A. R. Wigram, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police Patna, is transferred to Sarun.

Mr. T. J. Foster, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police Moorsheedabad, is allowed leave for two months, under Section 4, Rule 1, and Section 16, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code in extension of that granted to him under orders of the 10th ultimo.

Mr. T. G. Charles, Assistant Superintendent of Police, is appointed to act as District Superintendent of Police Champarun during the absence, on leave of Mr. A. V. Knyvett, or until further orders, with effect from such date as he may have joined that appointment.

Mr. C. E. Gouldsbury is appointed to act, until further orders in the First Grade of Assistant Superintendents of Police with effect from the 4th ultimo and is posted to the charge of the Patna City.

REGISTRATION.—Baboo Shama Churn Deb Roy is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Nowabgunge, in the district of Maldah.

Baboo Protab Chandra Bhadra is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Kotalpore, in the district of Burdwan.

Baboo Kristo Dhone Mojumdar is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Kumarkholly in the district of Nuddea, *vice* Moulvi Golam Kebria transferred.

EDUCATION.—Mr. Alexander Macdonell B.A. is appointed to the Fourth Class of the Bengal Educational Service and to be a Professor in the Patna College, with effect from the date on which he assumed charge of his duties.

MEDICAL.—Dr. J. A. Greene, Officiating Civil Medical Officer Furreedpore is allowed fourlough for one year under Section 8, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code with effect from the 16th October next.

Assistant Surgeon Ramchunder Sen attached to the Sumbhoo Nath Pundit's Hospital Bhowanipore Calcutta, is appointed temporarily to have medical charge of the Civil Station of Furreedpore until further orders.

Assistant Surgeon Gopalchunder Bose, a Supernumerary at the Presidency, is appointed to have medical charge of the Charitable Dispensary at Roserah in the district of Durbhanga.

Assistant Surgeon Womeshchunder Roy in charge of the Charitable Dispensary Alipore, 24-Pergunnahs, is allowed furlough for one year under Section 8, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code with effect from such day as he may be relieved of his present special duty.

JUDICIAL.—Baboo Bepin Chunder Roy, Additional Moonsif of Netrokonah in the district of Mymensingh, has been allowed leave of absence without pay for 27 days, under Section 10, Supplement F to the Civil Leave Code with effect from the 28th August 1879.

Baboo Robi Chunder Gangooly, Moonsif of Azimgunge in the district of Moorshedabad, has been allowed leave of absence for three months under Section 43-1 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 20th October 1879.

Baboo Nilmadhub Banerjee, Moonsif of Rughoonathpore in Chota Nagpore, has been allowed leave of absence for one month until Section 48-1 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st November 1879 or from any such date as he may avail himself of it.

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Real best Brazilian Pebbles,
Gold plated best quality folders... Rs. 10
Fitted in Silver Frame..... „ 7
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দ্বিতীয় খণ্ড সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে; মূল্য ১৲; ডাক মাসুল /০।
প্রথম খণ্ড—মূল্য ১।০; ডাক মাসুল /১০।
গুপ্তলিপি-লেখক-প্রণীত "চতুরা" উপন্যাস /৫।
কলিকাতা—শ্যামপুকুর ষ্ট্রীট ৩৮ নং নূতন বাঙ্গালা যন্ত্রালয়ে, ক্যানিং লাইব্রেরিতে ও চীনা বাজার ৩৯ নং পদ্মচন্দ্র নাথের দোকানে পাওয়া যায়।

PATNA GYA STATE RAILWAY.

From 15th September.—There will be a double Train Service daily, Trains will leave Terminal Stations as under:

		A. M.	A. M.			A. M.	A. M.
Up.	Bankipore Dep.	5 15	11 40	Down.	Gya Dep.	5 0	11 15
		P. M.	P. M.			P. M.	P. M.
	Gya Arr.	9 35	4 0		Bankipore Arr.....	9 20	3 38

During the pilgrimage Season Trains will leave Bankipore at 5-15 A. M., 6-40 A. M., 11-40 A. M., and 1-0 P. M., for Gya; and leave Gya at 5-0 A. M., 6-45 A. M., 11-15 A. M., and 1-10 P. M., for Bankipore Pilgrims booking through from Bankipore to Gya may break journey at Poonpoon for 24 hours to bathe.

Every comfort and convenience is guaranteed to Passengers, and Merchants are assured of prompt despatch of their Goods:

W. MOWBRAY JOHNSON,
Assistant Traffic Superintendent.
Bankipore, 8th September, 1879.

Wanted for the District Engineer's office Mymensingh a compent Head Clerk and accountant. Salary Rs. 40 per mensem. None need apply who has no thorough experience of an Executive Engineer's office accounts.

Applications to be submitted before the 25th September next.

AUSTOSH LAHIRI, B.C.E.,
District Engineer Road Cess Committee.
Mymensingh, 3rd September, 1879.

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM ASSAM.

A combined Steamer and Tonga Service has been established between Kownea on the Northern Bengal State Railway, and Dhubri on the Bramahpootra.

A Steamer leaves Kownea after the arrival of the mail train on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and passengers may expect to reach Dhubri on the same evening.

A Steamer leaves Dhubri at 5 A. M., on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, the corresponding steamer on the river Tiesta reaching Kownea in time for the mail train which leaves at 6 P. M.

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1 Seat in Tonga, upper class in Steamer with 12 seers of luggage	Rs.	10	0	0
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Chief Engineer's Office } D. B. HORN.
The 26th August 1879. } *Assistant Chief Engineer.*

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President.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ROXBURGHE, K.T.

Vice-Presidents.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND, K.G.
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, K.G.

Report by the Directors

PRESENTED TO THE
SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY,
Held at Edinburgh on Friday 4th April, 1879.

The Directors submitted the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December, 1878.

Life Business.

During the year there were issued 1034 Policies, assuring £1,034,651, the new Premiums on which amount to £33,,022-17-3.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 20 Endowments, were 262 in number, arising under 322 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amounts, with Bonus additions, to the sum of £220,243-10, after deducting reassurances.

The Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,852,566-11-3, being £140,689-19-8 above what it was on 31st December, 1877. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

Annuity Business.

In the Annuity Department 55 Bonds were issued securing the sum of £2,969-0-6 yearly, and forwhich, the Company received the sum of £28,892-9-4.

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E. T. Roberts, Esq., Solicitor.
Robert Steel, Esq., Merchant.

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18*th August* 1879.

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Printed and published by WOOMESH CHUNDER NUNDI, *at the* HINDOO PATRIOT PRESS, No 108, BARANUSSY GHOSE'S STREET, CALCUTTA.